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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE compiler of this treatise has selected from the writings of Camden, Bede, O'Flaherty, Ware, Archdall, Stuart, Reeves, and the Annals of the Four Masters, such information relative to the City of Armagh, as he trusts will prove interesting to the general reader.

To those who have not access to works of greater pretensions, this *brochure* may be acceptable, as it contains, in a condensed form, a faithful and impartial description of every thing of importance, tending to throw light upon the past and present History of a City which was once the seat of learning for the British Isles.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS were taken and printed expressly for this work, by Mr. ABRAHAM TALBOT, of Armagh, Artist.

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## RECORD OF THE CITY OF ARMAGH.

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### ANCIENT NAMES BY WHICH IT WAS KNOWN.

INNUMERABLE difficulties attend the elucidation of the ancient topography of the City of Armagh; little or no information relative to this subject is to be obtained from foreign, and not much from domestic writers. It is, however, believed to have been early inhabited. MacDermot, in the explanation to his Topographical and Historical Map of Ancient Ireland, states that Ardmacha, or Armagh, was in the earliest ages colonized by the *Nemedians*, who were Celto-Scythians. The Celts were descended from Gomer, and the Scythians from Magog, two sons of Japhet, son of Noah; and both these people originally dwelt in the countries near the Euxine and Caspian Seas, on the borders of Europe and Asia.

Ardmacha, Ardmak, Armachana, or the hill of Macha, now Armagh, was so called either from Macha, Queen of Ireland, who had her residence at Emania A.M. 3,603, or from Macha, wife of Nemedius, who was supposed to have been buried there more than a thousand years before the Christian era. The derivation of the word adopted by Ussher is Ardmach, the high place or field, which is perfectly descriptive of the ground on which the City stands. O'Donovan, however, states that no Irish scholar ever gave it that interpretation. Ptolemy, the great Egyptian geographer, who lived in the reign of Antoninus Pius, about the year of Christ 120, in writing of ancient Ireland of the first century, enumerates among its several illustrious cities, REBA and RIGIA, or REGIA, concerning which, great diversity of opinion has existed. In Ptolemy's Index, *Reba* is thus described, "*Citta d'Ibernia—Armachana*," and to *Regia* is prefixed, "*Arclinath*," (Dublin). Ware,

in his description of the places of Ancient Ireland, mentioned by Ptolemy, says of *Regia*: "Mercator takes this place to be Limerick, which cannot well be, in regard it is enumerated by Ptolemy among the Mediterranean cities." Camden, from its name and situation, thinks it is some place near Lough Ree. He then defines *Reba* to be "*Rheba*, situated on the river Barrow, in the County Kildare." In the III Vol. of the "Irish Academy Transactions," there is a valuable paper from Mr. Beaufort on this subject, in which he endeavours to explain some difficulties which appear in Ptolemy's geography of this kingdom. Speaking of REGIA, he says: "This city is supposed by Mercator to be Limerick, but by its latitude and longitude in Ptolemy's tables, it appears to be EAMANIA, or Eamhan, situated near Armagh, and at present called Rath-N'Eavan, or the Fort of Navan, whose remains consist of a circular entrenchment of considerable extent." This view appears to be the most correct, for *Emania*, according to the account given by the natives of ancient Ireland of the second century, is the same in geographical position as the *Rigia* of Ptolemy. In one of the oldest maps of this kingdom, annexed to O'Connor's "Dissertations," entitled, "A Map of Ireland agreeably to the times of Ptolemy," *Rigia* is represented as Eamania. This term, *Rigia*, as applied to Armagh by Gibbon and others, may probably have been given in compliment to the *Royal* founder, from whom the city is supposed to have derived its name; thus, *Regia civitas* or *sedes*. St. Fiech calls it the "seat of empire." Cambrensis styles Armagh, the "capital of Ireland." Bede calls it "Dearmach," *i.e.* a field of oaks, where St. Patrick built a very fine city; but he subjoins a romantic circumstance, *viz.*, "that the model of it was drawn for him by the angels." Cluverius, p. 112, calls it the "head of the kingdom," and adds, "after it, Dublin was second." Jocelyn, who wrote about the year 1182, in the 69th chapter of his life of St. Patrick, speaks of Dublin, in the time of that saint, as a small village—*pagus exiguus*.

"Near unto the river Kalin is Ardmagh, which (albeit it maketh a poor show) is the Archiepiscopal See and Metropolitan of the whole

Island. Before St. Patrick had built there a fair city, for site, form, quantity, and compass, modelled out by the appointment and direction of angels, this place was called *Druimsalich*. The Irish tell much that it received the name of Queen Armacha; but the better opinions are, that it is the same which Bede calleth *Dearmach*, and out of the Scottish and Irish language interpreteth it 'the field of oaks.'—(*Vita Pat. Mar. Scot.*)

The City of Armagh is the principal town in the County of the same name, and the Archiepiscopal See of the Primate of all Ireland. To point out the precise time when Armagh was first built would be a vain attempt, and not reasonably to be expected, especially if it be considered that few cities are laid out all at once. It is situated on the sloping sides of an ascent originally denominated *Druimsailech*, "the hill of fallows," changed to *Ard Sailech*, the height of fallows, and then to *Ard-Macha*, most probably *Eamhuin-Macha*, the palace of the Kings of Ulster, which stands in its vicinity. These fallows were evidently used in the construction of dwelling-houses for the original settlers.

#### SAINT PATRICK.

The chronology of St. Patrick's history is very uncertain, but the best authorities agree in fixing A.D. 458 as the year in which he founded the Cathedral, the site of which was given by *Daire*, the chieftain of the district, who resided on the summit of the hill where the Cathedral now stands, and was afterwards known by the name of *Rath-Daire*. In the year following he held at Armagh his first synod, the canons of which are still in existence. (*Wilkin's Con., Vol. I.*)

This Cathedral has been so often battered by invaders and so often repaired by the native Irish in the fashion of the age in which the new alterations took place, that we cannot make any use of it as evidence. It appears from the authority of the Tripartite Life of the founder, to have been an oblong structure 140 feet in length, and divided into nave and choir, according to the custom of the ancient churches.

The Irish had crypts to their stone churches, with insulated round towers. These crypts were not under, but upper crofts, situated in the roofs between the circular stone ceiling and the stone pediment



roof, as the churches of Glendaloch and Cashel. On this account the roofs of the Irish churches were raised remarkably high, which gave them a different appearance from those of the Saxons. The Irish do not appear to have built in lime and stone prior to the ninth century, from which period stone-roofed churches and round towers became common in this island. The ancient wooden churches and other edifices of the Irish, being easily destroyed by fire, were constantly exposed to the depredations of the Danes and other roving plunderers. There were no other means of saving the sacred relics, vestments, &c., of the churches, and the wealth of the inhabitants, than by hiding them in subterraneous caves. The method, therefore, of building churches entirely of stone, with upper crofts, was a great improvement, as it gave a place of security to the goods of the inhabitants as well as to the sacred utensils; for the churches being entirely of stone, could not be easily burnt; and the entrances into the upper crofts being only by narrow stairs, or by ladders through stone trap-doors, they could not be plundered without pulling down the building, which in those desultory expeditions they had seldom time to effect. This subject has been rendered very interesting by the Irish antiquarian, W. Beauford, in his "Origin of the Ancient Irish Churches."

In the year 1145, Gelasius built an immense kiln or furnace for making lime to repair the edifices in Armagh—a proof that lime had long previously been used in their construction. This kiln appears to have been quadrangular, and was of the extraordinary dimension of 60 feet on every side. The ancient method of using this lime was to reduce it to a thin or semi-liquid mortar, with a portion of fine sand; which being thus prepared, was poured into the internal joints of the walls. This process is designated *grouting*.

St. Patrick also laid out a large city, beautiful in situation, drew to it inhabitants, and established there schools and seminaries of education. Not long after he resigned the primacy, and it is alleged, spent the remainder of his days in retirement and contemplation. He died on 17th March, in the 120th year of his age, in consequence of which that



day has been observed for his commemoration in Ireland to the present time. He was buried in the Abbey of Saul, a church which he himself had founded at Downpatrick. The year of his death is uncertain, but according to most writers it was A.D. 493. Cambrensis gives the following inscription on his tomb:

"In Down, three Saints one grave do fill,—  
Bridget, Patrick, and Columbkil."

In a description of the principal towns in Ireland, extracted from Holinshed's Chronicle, we read that "the town of Ardmagh is said to be enemie to rats, and if anie be brought hither, presentlie it dieth, which the inhabitants impute to the praiers of St. Patrick."

The credulous Jocelyn states, that sometime before his death, "St. Patrick gathered together the several tribes of serpents and venomous creatures to a hill in Connaught, and drove them headlong into the Western Ocean, and that from hence hath proceeded that exemption which Ireland enjoys from all poisonous reptiles."

'Twas on the top of this big hill  
St. Patrick preached his sermon,  
That drove the frogs into the bogs,  
And bothered all the vermin.  
The toads went pop, the frogs went plop,  
Slap-dash into the water,  
And the snakes committed suicide,  
To save themselves from slaughter.

In the course of his missionary labours, St. Patrick determined to adopt the most effectual means for transmitting to posterity the doctrines which he had so sedulously taught. Under this impression he founded at Armagh

#### A SCHOOL,

which in process of time became famous throughout Europe. The foundation of the School of Armagh is to be traced to a very remote period in the judgment of those who are the champions of Irish antiquity, while this seems to be little more than conjecture in the estimation of others; but of its early existence there can be no question. Like every similar school of learning in Europe, even of more modern



date, it was insignificant in its commencement, but we find, even so late as the end of the 12th century, though many changes had taken place, and a long night of darkness had intervened, that the last of the Irish Kings, an encourager of learning, augmented the income of the Superior of Armagh College, stipulating that this *studium generale* should be continued to be kept open for all students who should come to Armagh.

"The College of Armagh," writes Fitzgerald, vol. 1, p. 155, "ranked for many centuries amongst the most celebrated seminaries in Europe, having at one time 7,000 students within its walls. Roderick O'Connor made a grant to its professors. Gildas, a disciple of St. Patrick, and the most ancient of the British historians, is said to have presided over it. The studies pursued in the Irish colleges were, theology, grammar, rhetoric, logic, music, geometry, astronomy and architecture." In the "Popular Encyclopædia," published at Glasgow, we find that, "in the middle ages Armagh was an extensive and populous city, and celebrated for its learning, having at one time 7,000 students at its college." But in more modern times, or three or four centuries preceding the Reformation, all the Irish colleges had passed into comparative insignificance, with the exception of that of Armagh; the high estimation in which that college was held, was attested by a synod of twenty-six Bishops, which Primate Gelasius convened at Clane (Diocese of Kildare), in 1162, when it was decreed, "that no person, for the time to come, should be admitted as a public reader in Divinity, unless he had been a student fostered or adopted by Armagh."

Charlemagne of France placed the University of Paris and that of Ticinum, *i.e.* Pavia (the two first formed establishments of the kind on the Continent of Europe), under the care of two Irishmen—Albin and Clement, as best qualified to preside over such institutions. Aigilbert, the first bishop of the Western Saxons, and afterwards Bishop of Paris, also Alfred King of Northumberland, were educated in Ireland, most probably at Armagh,

Thus we see that Armagh was a chief seat of literature and religion,

a "blazing star," when most parts of the western world were involved in darkness and superstition. "In the minds of the English it should excite sentiments of gratitude and affection for our country, for it was to this seminary of education that England was in a great degree indebted for the rudiments of learning which have ultimately exalted her to such a pitch of glory."

"Our Anglo-Saxons," writes Camden, "went in those times to Ireland as if to a fair, to purchase knowledge; and we often find in our authors, that if a person were absent from his own country, it was generally said of him, by way of proverb, that he was sent to Ireland to receive his education. It even appears that our ancestors, the ancient Anglo-Saxons, had learned the use of characters in Ireland; and from the Irish, our ancient English ancestors appear to have received their method of joining letters, and obviously made use of the same characters which the Irish now employ."—P. 730. Bede, in his Church History, B. III., C. 27, writes: "There were in Ireland many nobles and gentry from among the English, who in the time of Finan and Colmanus, who having withdrawn themselves thither, either for the sake of divine study, or to learn more chaste lives: all of them the Scots most freely admitted, and supplied them *gratis* with daily sustenance, with books and masters." Macpherson says: "In the 5th, 6th, and 7th centuries, religion flourished in Ireland to such a degree, that it was commonly styled the mother country of saints, and reputed 'the kingdom of arts and sciences.' In the 8th century

#### A CULDEAN MONASTERY

was erected in Armagh. This establishment is mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters, and Ulster, A.D. 920, where it is recorded that Godfrey, King of the Danes in Dublin, plundered Armagh, but spared the church of the Culdees. Usher asserts that there were Culdees, *Cultores Dei*, in all the chief churches of Ulster, and that some of them continued at Armagh down to the 17th century. "In our memory," says that eminent scholar, "were priests called Culdees, who celebrated divine service in the choir; their president was styled



Prior, and he acted as Precentor ; he had the most honourable seat at table, and every respect was paid him by the body." The appointment of this officer, as we find from Archbishop Swaine's registry, was vested in the whole body or college, and confirmed by the Archbishop of Armagh.

The Culdees, according to Bede and other authorities, lived by the labour of their own hands ; they were permitted to marry, but not to keep their wives in their own houses. They possessed many things in common, but other matters were divided at their decease, amongst their wives and children. In each Culdee college there were generally twelve brethren, one of whom was the Prior by election. By an inquisition taken in 1542, it appears that there were then within the precincts of the priory one great hall and a messuage built therein, and another great hall and messuage. In 1620 the Priory was forsaken, and the rents were then appropriated in erecting stalls in the cathedral.

About this time the city seems to have increased in size and population, as it contained, besides the cathedral, several other churches and religious establishments. The remains of some of these buildings were visible as late as 1819.

#### THE CHURCH OR ABBEY OF SS. PETER AND PAUL.

The Annals of Ulster and of the Four Masters record the *erection* of a *damhliag*, or stone church, called *Regles Poil agus Pedair*, or the Abbey Church of SS. Paul and Peter at the year 1126—a church, the original erection of which is erroneously ascribed by Ware, Stuart and others, to St. Patrick, and its consecration by the Archbishop Celsus. In modern times the site belongs to a Presbyterian place of worship. Some remains of the arches and walls may be seen in the rear of Mr. J. Davidson's property, and in a yard belonging to Mr. George Robinson, Abbey-street. (See A.D. 1557.) The sombre ruins of

#### THE FRANCISCAN ABBEY,

in the Primate's demesne (completed in 1266 by Primate O'Scanlan) even now attract the attention of the antiquary and tourist. The ruins of this ancient building of considerable magnitude, are covered with



old ivy, having only the western archway and some fragments of high walls remaining, the solidity of which, together with their protected situation, will preserve them for some time from total decay. In this district the Irish apostle is said to have fixed his residence during the time he was occupied in building the city. The interior of this abbey was used as a burying-place by the inhabitants and neighbouring districts, until the time of Primate Robinson. As far as can be ascertained, the last person interred there was "Terence Nugent," of Castledillon, who died in 1741. The cemetery originally lay to the south and east of the Friary, occupying the ground on which the garden now stands; several skulls and human bones have been exhumed by the labourers. These premises, together with all their tenements and buildings in Armagh, were, in 1620, incorporated with the demesne lands of the See.

The public road from this cemetery to the city, marked in Rocque's Map as "Abbey-Lane," ran almost in a straight line to Lower Irish-Street, and terminated on the premises held by the survivors of the late Robert Macan. Another road similarly marked ran northwards in a direct line through Mr. Boyd's premises in Dobbin-Street, terminating in a narrow street (Prentice's Lane), within 100 feet of Thomas-Street.

Near this Abbey, on the site of the gardener's house, stood the Marble Polishing Mill of Thomas Ogle. When Primate Robinson came to Armagh he was advised to remove this establishment, and drain "Parkamore Lake," which was behind the spot he had fixed on to build the palace, lest its exhalations should prove injurious to the air of his demesne. A little way to the west, near the ice-house, is the locality known formerly as the "Gallows-hill."

#### THE BISHOP'S COURT.

In the townland of Mullinure, between the Asylum and Grange Church, is the site of the old Bishop's Court, once the residence of the Primates. Not a trace of the extensive ruins of this establishment now remains, nor have we any historical evidence of the period of its erection. The

late John Corry, who wrote a valuable article on this subject, states that "it was erected early in the thirteenth century. The quantity of charcoal and ashes found in the building afford a reasonable ground for supposing that it was destroyed by fire; and the latest coins found there being minted about 1371, it may safely be inferred that its destruction took place not long after that date." About thirty years ago the land on which it stood fell into the hands of Mr. Humphreys, and subsequently was held by the late Mr. H. Magill, both of whom demolished every vestige of the building, and used the materials for the repair of roads. A great number of very curious coins, leaden seals, and *fibulae* were found on the premises. The holy water stoup, discovered at the northern department, is in the possession of the widow of the late Henry Magill, but a trowel, together with several pieces of finely sculptured white sandstone have fortunately been procured from Mr. James Magill and presented to the Museum of the Armagh Natural History and Philosophical Society. Those who recollect the ruins affirm that it was an oblong building with occasional projections, occupying nearly an acre of ground, and measuring about 230 feet in length, with a court-yard in the interior. At the time specified the outer walls in some places were 15 feet high and 9 feet thick, and the apartments were large and well defined. A fuller description of this interesting spot will be found in the Appendix to Dr. Reeves' "Ancient Churches of Armagh," from the pen of the late John Corry, who is celebrated by that distinguished scholar as the "best antiquary whom Armagh has given birth to."

#### THE ANCIENT TOPOGRAPHY

of this city has been faithfully described by the above eminent authority on Irish Antiquities—Dr. Reeves, who has had the rare opportunity of consulting the secret papers preserved in the muniment room of the Armagh Record office. The careful study of these manuscripts has enabled that gentleman not only to trace out the sites, but to identify the remains of almost every ecclesiastical building mentioned by our early annalists.

" Out of the ten recorded churches that existed here at the period of the English invasion, two only remain ; while of the rest the very site is in some mere matter of conjecture, and in others with difficulty determined. St. Patrick's first Church in Armagh is now represented by the Bank of Ireland. The Provincial Bank comes close on St. Columba. St. Bride's shares its honours with a paddock. St. Peter and St. Paul afford stabling and garden produce to a modern *rus in urbe*. St. Mary's is lost in a dwelling-house, and the Culdee Society can only be traced by head rent and bones to a region in the city, whence their successors are content to derive income, where in these days of luxury and airy streets they would be very unwilling to make their abode."

Dr. Reeves then states that in early times Armagh " consisted of two main departments ; the Rath, which was the nucleus, and the Trians or Wards, which were three in number, and formed the outer belt of habitation. \* \* \* The upper enclosure or entrenchment, commencing on the west, observed very much the course of Callan-street—the circle being continued across Abbey-street, a little below the Infirmary, and through the gardens round to Market street. The lower enclosure leaves still a trace where it crosses Abbey street at the Wesleyan Chapel. Within the upper ring all the edifices were ecclesiastical.

' 1. There was the Great Stone Church, probably occupying part of the site of the present Cathedral. In 1020 it was burned. In 1125 it was re-roofed and covered with shingles by Celsus. It served as the principal church until 1268, when Primate O'Scannail, he who founded the Franciscan Abbey, commenced the Great Church of Armagh. This building probably required a long period for completion ; but when finished, was enduring, and after repeated conflagrations, changes of masters, and re-edification, here it remains, the pride of the province and the glory of its noble restorer.

' 2. The Round Tower. Like other ancient churches of this character, the early Cathedral of Armagh seems to have had no steeple, but high at hand, probably about 40 feet from the N. W. angle, stood the Bell-tower. This round tower had a conical *cap*, as we learn from the Four Masters, who at 1121 state that ' a great wind storm happened in the December of this year which knocked off the cover of the Cloitech.' How long the tower survived the decapitation we know not.

' 3. Within the Rath was the Sabhal or Barn which was burnt in the conflagrations of 916 and 1020. Its site cannot be exactly determined, but it probably stood near the extremity of the north transept of the present Cathedral.

' 4. The next was ' the Stone Church of the Elections,' which also



suffered in the fires of 916 and 1020. It stood on the south side of the present Cathedral. Rocque marks the spot by a small oblong trace in the angle of the south transept and choir, and styles it 'the Parish Church.'

'5. Forming part of the monastic group was the Library or 'House of Writing.' This was the only building within the Rath which escaped the great fire of 1020. Though the Library escaped, the books were consumed in the houses of the students. Where shall we place this PSEUCHES IATREION?

'6. Within the Rath was also the Abbot's residence, which was frequently burnt by lightning. The only guide we have to the site of the Abbot's house is the distribution of the belt of ground which surrounds the Cathedral. The first mention of it is in the Annals of Ulster at 822, and in 1116 when it was burned with twenty-three houses. At this time it is probable that the Primate's Armagh residence was transferred to the Bishop's Court at Mullinure.

'7. The kitchen, about 17 feet long, was consumed by the fire of 915.

'8. Then there was the Prison.

'9. Somewhere near the conventual buildings was a sacred grove or shrubbery.

'10. The Cemetery probably occupied at first the space next the great church on the south. In after time it extended all round. Here it is probable the remains of Brian Boru were deposited in 1014.

'11. The Culdees' House was originally of considerable extent, for in 1462 the Primate had his Armagh residence in it, as we learn from Prene's Registry.

'12. The Hospice or Fort of Guests. It is doubtful whether this structure was inside the Rath, as there is no mention of it in the Annals. In all the conflagrations no mention is made of this spot.

'13. The Rath had an entrance which is mentioned in the Annals at 1121, 1166, outside of which stood a cross. I think we may safely assign the situation of this to the top of Market-street, where is the eastern entrance of the Cathedral premises. In the 17th century this Rath or Fort resumed its primitive condition of a fortress. For, in 1561, according to the Four Masters, the Lord Deputy Sussex 'pitched his camp of numerous hosts at Armagh, and erected strong Rathes and impregnable ramparts around the Great Church of Armagh, in order that he might have warders continually guarding that place.' Happily the crenelated walls are now gone, and in the absence of material defence, the Rath derives its present strength from the general consent that it contains the best ordered Church and the most efficient choir in the island; and that if it be desired to witness the perfection of

Choral Service, within the Rath of Armagh is the building where, *par excellence*, the wish may be gratified. Then as to the building which Rocque lays down on his Map on the north end of the Wind-mill to the west of the Cathedral, I have not found the slightest vestige of a notice. I must leave the question undetermined. Rocque marks the site of the Church which he calls 'the place where St. Bride's Church stood,' and fixes it 100 feet from the street where the Bank of Ireland now stands. Rocque is right to an extent in calling it St. Bride's Church; but he is altogether in error when he takes the temple Na Fearta, or Church of Wonders, to be on the Wind-mill Hill.'

Although the general suppression of religious houses, even considered in a political light only, was of a vast national benefit, yet it must be allowed that at the time they flourished, they were not entirely useless. Monasteries were even the repositories, as well as Seminaries, of learning; many valuable books and national records, as well as private evidences have been preserved in their libraries, the only places wherein they could have been safely lodged in those turbulent times: many of them which had escaped the ravages of the Danes, were destroyed with more than Gothic barbarity at their dissolution. Every Abbey had at least one person whose office it was to instruct youth; and to the Monks, the Historians of this country are chiefly indebted for the knowledge they possess of former national events. The arts of painting, music, and architecture were also successfully cultivated within their walls. These religious houses were likewise hospitals for the sick and poor, many of both being daily relieved by them: they also afforded lodging and entertainment to travellers at a time when there were no inns.

#### EMANIA, AND THE RED BRANCH KNIGHTS.

"About two miles westwards of the city," writes Dr. Stuart, "near the Callan, at a place called the Navan Hill, stands Emania, and with it is associated the great and glorious achievements of the renowned Red Branch Knights of Ulster. There are accounts given of the great legislative assemblies held there in those early ages, and of magnificent entertainments by the Kings." Colgan states that in his time (1647) "there were extensive remains of Emania. The Irian Kings of the posterity of Ir, ruled over Ulster for a period of nearly seven centuries.

viz., from about 350 years A.C. to A.D. 332, and had their chief residence at the palace of Emania. These monarchs established an order of warriors who were highly celebrated, and known by the name of Knights of the Red Branch."

O'Flaherty (pp. 104, 105), who makes Emania as a canon for ascertaining the succession of the Monarchs of Ireland, says that Kimbaitus was the original founder of Emania, and that it was he who first fixed his residence there A.M. 3596.

" Kimbaitus primo Maio moderaminis urbem,  
Regibus Emaniam Condidit Ultoniæ."

O'Connor on the same authority (p. 107) writes, that the sumptuous Palace of Emania, surrounded with ditches and ramparts, is one of the chief instances we can produce of architectural magnificence among the ancient Scots. It was built near Ardmacha, and makes a signal era in the history of the nation. The Palace itself was burnt down A.D. 332 (O'Connor p. 156), by the grandson of Carbrí Lissecar, after it had stood for 684 years; affording through that long period such examples of splendour, greatness, and economy as do honour not only to the Rudrician (Rex Rudricius, A.M. 3845), but the whole Milesian race.

A townland close beside the Navan Hill is still denominated Crieve Row, which was the site of the residence of the Red Branch Knights. 'Around this hill, between the base and the summit, is a fosse and moate or earthen rampart, the whole comprising an area of about twelve acres. There are also to be found some circular mounds or forts; so that these remains of earth-works of such an extent as to include twelve acres, demonstrate the greatness of the ancient Palace and fortresses of Emania.' Dr. Stuart also states that in an adjoining place called Trea, there is an earthen rampart or mound still traditionally called "the stable of the Kings."

#### THE BOOK OF ARMAGH.

"This manuscript," writes the antiquary Lhuyd, "is beyond all doubt of very great antiquity, whether it may have been written in part by the



hand of St. Patrick himself, or whether it be, as appears to me more probable, the work of some later age."

Mac Dermott, in his Annotations to the Annals of the Four Masters, says, "that the Book of Armagh, a MS. of the 7th century, on vellum, in Irish and Latin, contains a Life of St. Patrick, and his Confession, or a sketch of his life written by himself; also a Life of St. Martin of Tours; a copy of the Gospels, and other matters. This book is mentioned by Dr. Bernard in his Life of St. Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh; it was, as a precious relic, preserved for ages in a silver shrine, which was lost; and in modern times it was contained in a case of leather of elegant workmanship. This remarkable book was kept for many centuries in the family of Mac Moyre, near Armagh, who were specially appointed for its stewardship, but about the year 1680 it was taken to London by Florence Mac Moyre, who being in great poverty, sold it for £5 to a Mr. Brownlow." It is now in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. An account of the Book of Armagh is given by Ware, Ussher, and Dr. O'Connor, and copious extracts from it have been translated and published in that learned work, the "Irish Antiquarian Researches," by Sir Wm. Betham.

In the annals of history we read of no other town having suffered such a succession of misfortunes as the city of Armagh.

In 793 it was totally consumed by fire.

— 830 it was in the possession of the Danes and Norwegians.

Early in the 9th century the Danes established themselves in various parts of Ulster, and in 836, Turgesius at the head of a Danish force, pillaged and burnt the city of Armagh with the Cathedral and other sacred edifices, expelled the Bishop with all the students of the college, and burned every manuscript which the most minute search could discover. On six other occasions was the town laid waste by these same barbarians in the same century, and during the three following centuries Armagh was plundered thirteen times.

— 839. Ardmacha, with its oratories and great church was burned by the Danes of Lough Neagh.

'During the reign of Nial Caille, writes Stuart, many battles were fought between the Irish and the Danes with various success. Nial finding himself sufficiently powerful to invade the territories conquered by the Danes in Ulster, advanced against Armagh, the head quarters of his savage enemies. The Danes, confident of success, met him, and the adverse hosts closed, spear to spear, man to man. The troops of Nial thirsting for vengeance, fought with a desperate valour which made them irresistible. The Danes were completely overthrown, and in the universal rout were slaughtered by the victorious Irish without mercy. Those who survived the battle fled towards the river Callan, probably to gain a temporary refuge in the Navan Fort. The river was swollen from a torrent of rain which had fallen and interrupted the march of the victorious army in their progress to Armagh.

'At the foot of Tullamore hill, which the river divides from Umgola, Nial halted his troops. At his command, one of his warriors endeavoured to pass the ford on horseback, but was instantly hurried from his steed by the impetuosity of the waters. Nial, who with strong emotions, saw him struggling for life, commanded his guards to make every effort for his preservation. In vain was the command obeyed; terror fixed them to the spot immovable. The magnanimous King dashed forward with a generous resolution to save his friend or perish in the attempt. As he approached the bank of the river, the ground, undermined by the torrent, sank beneath his horse's feet, the monarch was precipitated into the flood, where death at once closed his career of victory and his life. His body was deposited in a grave dug in Tullamore, on the bank of the river where he had so prematurely perished. A simple mound of earth which tradition has from generation to generation denominated "Nial's Mound," lately marked the spot where the sovereign of Ireland lies in the silence of death.'

From this circumstance the stream bears the name of the Irish warrior who perished in its waters.

In 989 the town was plundered—the houses, church and steeple burnt, and Armagh at this time became the most melancholy spectacle in the kingdom.

— 1004, King Brian Boru with his army remained a whole week in Armagh, and on his departure left a collar of gold weighing 28 ounces, as alms, on the great altar of the Church.

At the battle of Clontarf, which took place on Good Friday, 23rd of April, 1014, this renowned Irish King fell, and by his will gave direc-

tions that his remains should be buried at Armagh, the Cathedral of which he had endowed with large donations of gold and cattle. On Easter Saturday, the day after the battle, the body was conveyed in solemn procession to Armagh where it arrived on the fourth day. The body was embalmed with great magnificence, and the remains, after lying in state for twelve successive nights, were then deposited in a stone coffin at the north side of the great altar of the Cathedral. The bodies of his two sons, together with the heads of his nephew, and the Prince of Desies, were buried at the same time in the south side of the Cathedral.

1020. The Irish ecclesiastical Bell of St. Patrick was plundered from Armagh by a body of marauders from County Down. This *Clog-an-uidheachta* is at present in the library of Dr. Todd, Trinity College, Dublin. The history of this curious relic, accompanied by four tinted lithographic engravings of the bell and its shrine, was written by Dr. Reeves, and published by M. Ward, of Belfast, who presented a copy, handsomely bound, to the Public Library, Armagh.

1074. Armagh was burned with all its churches and bells, both Rath and Trians (*i.e.* both enclosure and external buildings, liberties or streets beyond the Rath.)

At this time Armagh consisted of the *Rath* and *three Trians*, the latter term being applied generally in the same way as *quarters* with us. The Rath comprised the enclosure on the hill crowned by the present Cathedral. Of the other parts—the first was called the *Trian Mor*, or principal part; the second—the *Trian Masson* or *Massan* third; and the last, the *Trian Saxon* or English third, from the number of English students resident in it.

1121. Two streets of the Trian Masain burnt, from the door of the Rath to the cross of Bridget; and a great storm prevailed, which knocked off the cap of the bell-tower of Armagh.

1125. We find that Celsus tiled the roof of the Great Duleek or Stone Church which had been in part uncovered for the space of 130 years.



1165. Armagh was in part consumed by fire, and in 1167 it was wasted by an immense conflagration which raged on the one side from the cross of St. Columba in Abbey-street to that of St. Eugene or Owen, and from thence to the cross at Port Rath. The intermediate buildings and Churches, except that dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, were totally consumed by fire.

1166. Armagh burned in two streets, from the cross of Columkille to the cross of Bishop Eoghan, and from the cross of Bishop Eoghan, in the second street, to the cross at the door of the Rath, and all the Rath with its temples, except the Abbey Church of Peter and Paul, and a few of the houses, and a street to the west of the Rath, from the cross of Sechnall to the cross of Brigid.

1172. A Synod was held at Armagh by Gelasius and the Irish Clergy. The subject of their deliberation was to inquire into the cause of the arrival of so many strangers into their country to invade it, and they concluded that it was their "practice of purchasing Englishmen and making them slaves," subjected them to divine vengeance.

1178. Wm. Fitz-Adhelm, Chief Governor of Ireland, removed a relic from Armagh called "the Staff of Jesus," and deposited it in Christ's Church, Dublin. This was the Crozier of St. Patrick, which was ornamented with jewels and precious stones, and preserved with all veneration at Armagh. In 1538, the gems and golden ornaments being removed, it was publicly burnt, together with many other relics, in High-street, Dublin, by order of Archbishop Brown.

#### ANCIENT CROSSES.

It appears that there were in the middle of the twelfth century four stone Crosses in Armagh, a fifth was brought by Bishop Prene from Raphoe in 1439, when he was appointed to the Primacy. This is supposed to be the Cross which stood in Market-street, and which now lies prostrate in the Cathedral yard. Dr. Reeves rather thinks it was an altar cross. Besides these there were two crosses in the Cathedral burying-ground, one at the north and the other at the south side of the church. A fragment of one of these crosses, called "St. Patrick's

Chair," is buried beneath the spot where it formerly stood near the grand entrance at the west end of the Cathedral.

These crosses probably were boundaries and limits of certain jurisdictions, but where they stood, writes Dr. Reeves, it is impossible to say.

1264. Primate O'Scannail introduced the Friars Minor into Armagh and built for them a Church (in the Primate's demesne), around which, some time after, he caused a deep and broad trench to be sunk.

1268. The Great Church of Armagh was commenced by Primate O'Scannail. Ware says that "he repaired and much beautified the Cathedral of St. Patrick at Armagh." According to this the Great Church or *Tempall Mor*, is the same as the Duleek, mentioned 1125, which with the other churches at Armagh was destroyed in 1189, and had perhaps continued in a ruinous state until Primate O'Scannail set about re-building it.

1347. The celebrated Fitz-Ralph, commonly called *Armachanus*, became Primate of Armagh. Besides being the author of many learned works, he wrote the "*Defensorium curatorum contra eos qui privilegiatos sedicunt*," the *oldest* if not the most valuable book in the Armagh Library. It was printed at Paris, 26th Oct., 1461.

1465. To assimilate the customs, dress and manners of the English and Irish people, Parliament enacted that every Irishman should be dressed after the manner of the English, and should shave their beard above the mouth and take an English name, derived either from an art or science, trade or colour. Hence have we Smiths, Taylors, Carpenters, Butlers, Cooks, White, Black, Green, Scarlet, Grey, Brown, Field, Street, Lane, Wall, Stone, &c., &c.

1480. Octavian de Palatio, a Florentine, was made Archbishop of Armagh, and seeing there the barbarous manners of the common people, their diet and nakedness, he is said to have exclaimed—

Armagh is notorious  
For being vainglorious.  
The men void of manners ; their spouses  
Go naked : they eat  
Raw flesh for their meat,  
And poverty dwells in their houses.

Moryson, part iii., p. 164, after quoting these vulgar lines, proceeds to write of Armagh, and gives a general description of the Irish customs in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, from which the following is an extract :

"These wild Irish never set any candles upon tables since indeed they have none, but set their meate upon a bundle of grasse, and use the same grasse for napkins to wipe their hands. To give light to the house they place a great candle, made of reedes and butter, upon the floore. And in like sort the chiefe men in their houses make fiers in the midst of the roomes, the smoake whereof goeth out at a hole in the top thereof. They sleep under the canopy of heaven or in a poore house of clay, or in a cabin made of the boughes of trees and covered with turffe, for such are the dwellings of the very Lords among them. And in such places they make a fier in the midst of the roome, and round about it they sleep upon the ground without straw or other thing under them, lying all in a circle about the fier, with their feete towards it. And their bodies being naked, they cover their heads and shoulders with their mantells, which they first make very wet, steeping them in water of purpose, for they finde that when their bodies have once warmed the wet mantells, the smoke of them keeps their bodies in temperate heate all the night following."

Strabo, who wrote his Geography about A.D. 19, speaks thus of the manners of the Irish at that early period :

"I have nothing certain to say about Ireland, unless that the inhabitants are ruder than those of Britain ; they feed on human flesh and devour very much food, and think it right to eat the bodies of their dead parents," *et pejora dicit*.

In 1557 an Inquisition was held at Armagh, whereby we find that James O'Donnelly, the last Prior, surrendered the Abbey, being then in possession of the site thereof ; at which time there was a large church, some stone chambers, a dormitory with cellars beneath it, an hall, a stone house, a great court, a cemetry, garden and orchard. This Abbey and all the possessions thereunto belonging were granted in 1612 to Sir Toby Caulfeild at the rent of £5 Irish per annum.

#### THE CONDITION OF ARMAGH IN 1566

is thus described by Camden : "In our memory the Church and City of Armagh were so foully defaced by the rebel Shane O'Neal that they



lost all their ancient beauty and glory, and nothing remaineth at this time but a few small wattled cottages."

1614. The Cathedral which had been destroyed by Shane O'Neal was restored by Primate Hampton; the walls with their windows reconstructed, the aisles re-roofed and the steeple rebuilt. He also recast the great bell and repaired the old Episcopal House, to which he added sundry new buildings. In 1689, King James II., on his way to Charlemont, stayed some days at Armagh, and resided in a house (an inn) in Abbey-street, lately occupied by a blacksmith named Magill; and in the year following, 1690, Duke Schomberg took possession of Armagh and occupied the same quarters. In 1792 we find that the place was almost in ruins. Part of the materials were used in building a Presbyterian Church, erected on the site of the old Abbey, from which the street derives its name. Since then the grounds contiguous were known as the "Gravel Walks," where John Wesley was wont to preach. The premises were subsequently tenanted by Richardson, Magill, and Dobbin. On this interesting site now stands the "Protestant Hall and Reading Room."

25th January, 1690. Story in his History of the Wars of Ireland, p. 12, writes: "Stores of bread, cheese, shoes and other necessaries were appointed at several places, especially at Armagh, the metropolis of the whole island."

Tradition has it that the line of march used by King James and Duke Schomberg on their way to Charlemont was over a bridle road or "desert lane" running between the Fever Hospital and the Blind Asylum.

1721. Primate Lindsey presented to the Vicars Choral a second organ for divine service, and a peal of six fine-toned bells for the Cathedral. On the day of their arrival it is said that an execution took place on Gallows-hill. The appointed hour arrived, and the crowd was in eager expectation for the appearance of the unfortunate victim, when intelligence came that the bells were on the Dublin road within a short distance of the city. In a moment the vast multitude dispersed, leaving the sheriff, *posse comitatus* and finisher of the law alone to dis-

charge their painful duty. The horses were unyoked from the waggons and Primate Lindsey's merry bells were towed in triumph to their final resting place.

1726. Primate Boulter built four houses on Vicars'-hill for the reception of clergymen's widows, from a fund which by his will he appropriated to that purpose. These he endowed with £50 per annum. This locality was originally denominated "Pound Hill," from an enclosure which stood at the south-west corner leading to Kalin-street.

On 29th September, 1759, the Sovereign of the City, accompanied by several of the Burgesses, formally opened two new streets which they denominated Thomas-street and Ogle-street, which has proved of more essential service to the city than any other improvement which had been effected in the 18th century.

These streets were so called from the first and second name of "Thomas Ogle," who was Sovereign of the City in 1751. Notwithstanding this formal inauguration, Rocque's Map of 1760, as well as Livingstone's Survey of the City in 1767, ignore the existence of Ogle-street, and both assign the same name to the two distinct streets. Dr. Reeves in the Map which accompanies his "Ancient Churches of Armagh," has unhappily fallen into the same error.

To the munificence of nearly all the Archbishops, Armagh owes much, but her great benefactor and restorer was Richard Robinson who succeeded to the Primacy in 1765. Immediately after his promotion he repaired the Cathedral, and presented to the Vicars Choral a fine-toned organ incased in black oak exquisitely carved, bearing the arms of the donor. The houses in Armagh about this time, with very few ceptions, were cottages covered with straw. The citizens were obliged to go to the neighbouring village of Richhill to purchase groceries and decent clothing, and it is said that letters were transmitted through that village for the people of Armagh.

Nineteen years before Primate Robinson's arrival, the city of Armagh is thus described in Salmon's Gazetteer, "once a considerable city, now reduced to a small village."

## THE PALACE.

Tis difficult to discover by whom the original "Episcopal House" at Armagh was built. When Christopher Hampton succeeded to the Primacy in 1613, he built a handsome Palace at Drogheda, which was then the principal residence of the Archbishops of this Diocese. He also repaired an "old Episcopal House" at Armagh. This edifice was in such wretched order when Primate Robinson came to the See, that the premises were given up in the first instance to Mr. Macan, and subsequently divided into separate houses (now occupied by Messrs. Riggs and Hazelton). His grace having determined to build a Palace, resided for some time at Richhill, and in 1770, in the demesne lands, he erected a splendid mansion measuring 90 feet by 60. His first intention was to have built it on Tullyard hill, but Dr. Averell, proprietor of the soil, would not transfer his title to the lands, and thus the Primate was obliged to change his original design.

Some of the apartments are adorned with valuable paintings, which were bequeathed by the founder to his successor—viz., Charles I., King William and Queen Mary, Queen Ann, Prince George of Denmark, King George I., George II., Frederic Prince of Wales, George III., Queen Charlotte, the Elector of Hanover, the Princess Sophia, Electress and Duchess Dowager of Hanover, the Duke of Zell, together with several of the Primates, fifteen in number, reaching down to the time of Archbishop Stuart from that of Henry Usher who was raised to the Primacy in the year 1595, towards the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. These complete the series of Protestant Archbishops of Armagh during that period.

On his accession to the Primacy in 1822, the present Primate expended an immense sum in building office houses and adding another story to the Palace, which gives it a noble and graceful appearance. In the year 1781 Primate Robinson built a beautiful Domestic Chapel near the west end of the Palace. The front has a handsome portico of the Ionic order, and the whole edifice is in the most chaste and classic style of architecture.



## THE LIBRARY.

founded by Primate Robinson, is situated in Abbey-st. near the Cathedral. It was completed in 1771, and bears the inscription *PSEUCHES IATREION* (Medicine-shop of the Soul) over the entrance at the east end.

Some authors refer the origin of Libraries to the Hebrews, who set the example to other nations. Osmanduas, King of Egypt, is said to have had a library built in his palace with the foregoing inscription. The Alexandrian Library, built A.C. 280 by Ptolemy Philadelphus, containing 700,000 volumes, all in rolls, also had the same motto.

In 1847 the Governors expended upwards of £3,000 in enlarging the Armagh Library, and its present appearance differs materially from that which is given in a medal, struck by order of the founder to commemorate its erection. The building contains a suite of elegant and commodious apartments for the use of the Librarian and his family. The public room which contains the books now measures 67 feet in length, 25 feet broad, and 20 in height. There are about 12,000 vols., and the number is constantly increasing under the guardianship of the present "Board." In the Divinity department the collection is exceedingly rare and valuable. There are also many select works on Classics, Science, and History. In the "Poet's corner" too, may be seen the 4th or last of the folio editions of Shakespiere, published in 1685. The second edition of Dr. Johnston's Dictionary, 2 vols. folio, 1755. In this book the curious may indulge for some time by reading the extraordinary definitions given to "*grubb street*," "*network*," "*oats*," "*oysters*," "*pension*," &c. The hours of attendance at the Library are from 12 till 3 every day in the week except Wednesdays and Fridays, when it is open from 1 till 3; during which time the public are admitted "free as air" to every privilege which the institution affords. Rev. JAMES HOGAN, Librarian. EDWARD ROGERS, Deputy.

About the year 1772 the Churches of Lisnadill and Grange were built by Primate Robinson on lofty hills commanding beautiful views of the country, city and Cathedral, thus reminding us of the song of the Psalmist, "Her foundations are upon the holy hills."

## THE ROYAL SCHOOL.

In 1773 Primate Robinson laid out the foundation of this building, which cost upwards of £5,000, of which £3,000 were advanced by Primate Robinson, and the remainder by the celebrated Dr. Greuber, who was Head Master of the School, which then stood in Abbey-street, near the spot where Rocque in his Map has placed St. Columba's Monastery. The school was originally endowed in 1626, from which time we have in succession the following list of Masters :—John Lydiat, John Starkey, Isaac Colyer, Thomas Wadman, 1684 ; Joseph Crump, 1690 ; R. Martin, 1700 ; C. Carthy, 1740 ; Arthur Greuber, 1754 ; Thomas Carpendale, G. Miller, and W. H. Guillemard, the present Master. The school-room is 65 feet by 20, and the dining-room and dormitories are well ventilated and spacious. A few years since the present Primate advanced the sum of £3,000 for internal arrangements which were considered absolutely necessary, the greater part of which still remains unpaid.

## THE METROPOLITAN REGISTRY OFFICE,

situated on Vicars'-hill, is a fire-proof building erected by Primate Robinson about the year 1776. Besides being the repository of the titles of the clergy and numerous other important and interesting documents belonging to the Church, there is a muniment-room containing books and manuscripts, which, by Primate Robinson's will, cannot be submitted to public inspection. These were a short time since carefully arranged and lettered by Dr. Reeves, and a minute index made out for the inspection of those who are permitted to make extracts. Of this department the Librarian holds the key, under the control of the Lord Primate. J. G. W. BRIDGES and G. SCOTT, Esqrs., Joint Registrars. R. RIDDALL, Esq., Deputy Registrar. Mr. G. D. HUGHES, Clerk.

The business of the COURT OF PROBATE is also transacted in this Office, with the sanction of his Grace, until a proper house and offices be erected by Government, (the site for which has been selected near the Court-house), for the accommodation of the Registrar and his assis-

tants. ROBERT RIDDALL, Esq., District Registrar. Mr. G. D. HUGHES, Clerk.

#### THE OBSERVATORY.

The last public building erected by Primate Robinson was the Observatory in 1793. It is beautifully situated on a hill in the immediate vicinity of Armagh, about 100 feet above the general level of the district. The Observatory hill was formerly called *Knockbuy*, i.e. the yellow hill, on account of the profusion of butter-cups with which it is covered in spring. To commemorate the erection of this edifice a medal was struck, having on one side the head of the Primate inscribed,—“Richard Robinson, Baron Rokeby, Lord Primate of all Ireland,” and on the reverse, the south front of the Observatory, with the appropriate motto, “The Heavens declare the glory of God, MDCCLXXXIX.” Strangers and visitors are admitted at seasonable hours through the courtesy of the Astronomer and his assistants. Several works on the science of Astronomy have been written by Dr. Robinson, the last of which is entitled “Places of 5,345 stars, observed from 1828 to 1854 at the Armagh Observatory.” This book is inscribed to the Lord Primate, and published in 1859 at the expense of Government, on the recommendation of the Royal Society. In the introduction to the work, Doctor Robinson states that at the time of Primate Robinson’s death, “no work of any real value to astronomy could be done for the want of proper instruments; and the two immediate successors took no interest in science. It remained for the present Archbishop of Armagh, Lord John George Beresford, to remedy this defect by his gift of a transit instrument, a mural circle and a reflector of 15 inches aperture, equatorially mounted. The endowment of the Observatory is not sufficient to defray the expense of publishing the observations; but I was enabled by the liberality of the Primate to print those for 1828, 1829, and 1830, which were distributed among the Astronomers and Observatories of Europe.” Rev. T. R. ROBINSON, D.D., Astronomer, NEAL M’N. EDMONDSON, Esq., Rev. W. H. ROMBAUT, Assistants,



## THE DEANERY.

North-east of the Observatory and in its immediate neighbourhood, stands the Deanery House and grounds, a charming spot, chiefly remarkable for having been the residence of the learned and celebrated Dr. H. Hamilton. The present occupier is the Very Rev. B. DISNEY, Dean of Armagh.

## COUNTY INFIRMARY.

This handsome edifice, which is situated to the north-west of the Cathedral, was completed in 1774. Besides the Resident Physician, there is an Apothecary attached to the institution, a Matron, Cook, Nurse-tender, and a Porter, who acts as gardener. The late Rev. Dr. Lill, supposing that the waters of Lough Neagh were efficacious in the treatment of scrofulous diseases, determined to found on its banks an asylum for persons so afflicted. The bequest however was found to be inadequate for the purpose. Under these circumstances the case was submitted to the judgment of the Lord Chancellor, who empowered the trustees to attach the "charity" to the Armagh Infirmary, and a large wing was built at the north end of the house called "Lill's Ward," where patients receive every attention and medical aid which human skill and science can afford, under the management of the Resident Physician, A. ROBINSON, Esq., M.B. JAMES ARMSTRONG, Esq., Apothecary. Mrs. CRAUFORD, Matron.

## THE FEVER HOSPITAL,

established in 1827, is supported by his Grace the Lord Primate. This hospital is chiefly intended for the accommodation of tradesmen, servants and their families. Patients are admitted by ticket signed by the Medical Officer and one of the Governors, from any part of the city and its vicinity. Number of beds, 30, but containing accommodation for 40 patients. Physician, JAMES LESLIE, Esq. M.D.

## THE DISPENSARY,

situated in Scotch-street, consists of three Electoral Divisions or Districts—viz., Armagh, Ballyards, and Ballymartrim, comprising 74 townlands and the Corporation or City of Armagh. This institution is

now under the authority of the Poor Law Guardians and a committee of management. Two Vaccination Stations are held in the country districts. There is also a maternity department connected with the institution, and above 80 of the poor classes avail themselves of this privilege during the year. The Dispensary Committee are the Sanitary Board for the District, and exercise authority under the "Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Acts." The average number of Patients who receive relief annually amount to 20,000, of this number about 800 are attended at their own houses. Physician and Surgeon, J. LESLIE, Esq., M.D.

THE ARMAGH DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM, opened in the year 1825, was the first institution of the kind built in Ireland. Originally intended to accommodate 104 patients, it is now capable of receiving 144. The Counties of Armagh, Monaghan, Cavan, and Fermanagh were formerly comprised in this District, containing a population of 793,336. Fermanagh is now detached and conjoined to the institution in Tyrone. There were 8A. 0R. 23P. of land purchased for the Asylum grounds which cost £81 3s. 11d. per acre, in addition to which 5 acres are rented. The building cost £18,094 4s. 8½d. From July, 1825, to September, 1860, 1,347 males and 1,061 females were admitted. It may be interesting to know that four male patients, two of which were admitted in 1828, one in 1830, and one in 1831; four females, two of which were admitted in 1825, and two in 1828—still live to participate in the comforts and blessings afforded by the institution. Mr. JACKSON was appointed Manager in 1825, which situation he honourably filled till February, 1859, and on his resignation, Dr. M'KINSTRY was appointed Resident Physician and Manager. His Grace the Lord Primate always took a great interest in the Asylum, and has evinced at all times a great anxiety for the comfort and welfare of the patients. THOMAS CUMING, Esq., M.D., Visiting Physician. Mrs. SMYTH, Matron.

MACAN'S ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

In the year 1848 a sum of £11,180 2s. 10d. Government 3½ per cent.

Stock, under the will of the late Jacob Macan, Esq., was available for the purpose of building and endowing an Asylum for the Blind of *every denomination*. Much difficulty having arisen respecting a site, application was made to his Grace the Lord Primate for the Fever Hospital and grounds belonging thereto. His Grace accepted the proposal, and after the necessary alterations were made in the building, the Institution was opened for the reception of inmates on 1st April, 1854. The making of mats and baskets is taught and practised at the Asylum, and the inmates have made considerable proficiency. Mr. T. SMITH, Secretary. Miss M. WILKIN, Matron.

#### THE MARKET HOUSE

was erected by Primate Stewart at an expense of £9,000. It is built with cut limestone, and situated eastward of the Cathedral, at the foot of Market-street. The following inscription on the front describes the date and object of the building :—"GULIELMUS ARCHIEP. ARMAGH. UTILITATI CIVIUM DEDIT. MDCCCXI." The old Market-house was planned by Primate Boulter, but he did not live to see it perfected. His executors, however, carried out his intentions, and expended about £850 on the building.

#### THE GAOL

stands on the south side of the public walks at the foot of Barrack-street. It was built in 1780, since which time several alterations and enlargements have been effected. Under the present arrangement nothing can exceed the kindness and attention of the Governor to those who have the misfortune to be placed under him.

#### THE OLD BRIDEWELL

or House of Correction, mentioned in Rocque's map, stood at the foot of Scotch-street, on the site of which the late John Summerville built a house, now occupied by John Kearney. It was a building of no great pretensions, being one story high, slated, and under the charge of a well-known city official, Jemmy Simpson.

#### THE MILITARY BARRACKS,

situated on an eminence to the east of the city, were built in 1773. In



1736 Primate Boulter leased to Government a portion of the "Commons" for the purpose of building a Barracks, the remains of which were on the ground when Primate Robinson came to Armagh in 1765.

In 1814 a new row of houses was erected on Barrack-hill, and an entire new street in the district of Na Fearta was opened, commencing near the foot of Scotch-street, and at its termination approximates the point in which Thomas-street and Ogle-street meet.

#### PUBLIC TONTINE ASSEMBLY ROOM.

By Deed of assignment from the original subscribers and proprietors to trustees, bearing date 6th September, 1823, it appears that about the year 1790, the propriety of having a Public Assembly and Ball Room suggested itself to the nobility and gentry of this city and its vicinity. For this object the sum of £1,120 was subscribed, and a proper site chosen for its erection. A lease of the premises was granted by Thomas Whaley, of Dublin, who held under the Archbishop of Armagh, to Rev. H. Hamilton, Dean of Armagh, Rev. R. Allott, D.D., John Burgess, Thomas Macan, Thomas Taylor, and John Macan, at the yearly rent of £5 13s. 9d. After some time the building appears to have fallen into a state of dilapidation, and at a general meeting of the subscribers and proprietors held in 1821, it was arranged that the said subscribers should assign their interests in the establishment for the accommodation of the public of Armagh to the following trustees:—A. I. Kelly, Sovereign of Armagh; R. R. Lodge, Leonard Dobbin, sen., William M'Williams, H. L. Prentice, and John Waugh.

In 1828 the Trustees expended £500 in putting up a new staircase, and in other necessary improvements.

About the year 1841, the Armagh Musical Society held their concerts in the Tontine, but the Concert Room was found to be so small and inadequate for the purpose, that the project of having a proper Music Hall built was seriously entertained. His Grace the Lord Primate, however, with the idea of improving the old building and making it suitable for general purposes, proposed to renew the Lease without the renewal fines, on condition that the necessary improve-

ments would be duly executed. The Toll Committee at once accepted the kind offer of his Grace, and expended at that time £700.

Within the last twenty years, about £1,000 were laid out on this building by the Toll Committee.

There is also a Supper-room and a convenient suite of apartments, in one of which is a Public News Room, which is well supported by a large number of the respectable inhabitants.

The imposing appearance of the establishment, and the satisfactory manner in which everything is conducted, reflects great credit on the present trustees—H. L. Prentice, Rev. James Jones, Wm. Paton, Wm. Barker, Thos. A. Prentice, and J. G. Winder.

#### THE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

was erected in 1809, and lies to the north-west of the Mall. Being built on the old method, it was found to be very inconvenient. Frequent complaints having been made, Mr. Davison, County Surveyor, submitted to the Grand Jury a plan for the alteration and improvement of the house, which was approved of, and a presentment for £2,500 was passed at Summer Assizes, 1860, to carry out the proposed plan; and the work was commenced in July, 1860. The following are the contemplated alterations: A rear wing on the east side for the public offices, committee rooms, crown witnesses, police, &c. The fittings in the present courts are to be all pulled down, and the barristers' pews placed in front of the dock so as to face the Judge;—accommodation is provided for the juries in waiting, and the public, who are to enter a gallery by a separate entrance from the outside without passing through the hall;—cells under the court for the prisoners, a room for the Grand Jury witnesses, a room for the attorneys, and considerable sanatory improvements. Both courts are to be lighted at night by sunburners. Mr. THOMAS ROSS, Contractor and Builder.

#### THE OLD SESSION HOUSE

was immediately over the Gaol, which consisted of a dismal suite of subterraneous apartments at the foot of Market-street. The building has been subdivided into four houses, at present in the occupation of

Messrs. Vint, Simpson, Bryson, and Burns. The entrance to the Session House was by a flight of steps, on the top of which was placed the "Pillory." Down the passage leading to Mr. Vint's hall door may be seen the serrated eve-course, over the windows of the old Grand Jury Room.

Respecting the origin of this establishment, it can be traced from a clause inserted in a Privy Signet for vesting lands in the Primate by James I., bearing date 1st August, 1619, as follows: "Excepting and reserving unto us, our heirs and successors, out of the Vicars Choral and Choristers lands of the Cathedral of Armagh, which the said Archbishop shall think most convenient for our service—a portion of ground 80 feet in length by 40 in breadth for a Session House and Gaol in said town of Armagh." Primate Hampton chose Market-street for the site of this building, for we have an account of its existence there in 1704, when it was nearly destroyed by fire. The rents arising from these tenements are now appropriated to the support of the Mall Male and Female Schools.

At the beginning of the 18th Century, behind the Session House and Gaol, at the foot of Market-street, there was a small lake, called "Lake Lappan" which contained, it is said many eels. In the rear of the ground on which Ogle-street has been built, there was a tract of marshy ground and a small lake. The Barrack street commons also contained various stagnant pools which emitted unwholesome vapours.

#### THE NATURAL HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

was established in 1839, and has during the last ten years especially been making most satisfactory progress. In the year 1856 the Earl of Charlemont presented to the Society the building then known as the Charlemont Place National School-house, which has since, through the liberality of his Grace the Lord Primate and that of the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood as well as the inhabitants of the city, been considerably improved. Within the Society's house are a reading-room, library, lecture and committee rooms, curator's residence and a



museum, which when duly arranged will be worthy of the tourist's visit. The institution is most creditable to the city, and is well deserving of the liberal support of a generous public. The reading-room is open from 12 till 2 o'clock daily, and from 7 till 10 in the evening. President, Rev. T. R. ROBINSON, D.D. ; Mr. L. G. MILLS, Secretary ; Mr. BENJAMIN P. DAVIDSON, Treasurer.

#### ST. MARK'S CHURCH,

or Chapel of Ease, was originally erected in Primate Stewart's time, near the public walks, to the eastward of the Cathedral. To accommodate the increasing Protestant population of the city, it has been considerably enlarged and beautified, chiefly by the munificence of the present Primate, and a congregational subscription. The church contains about 1,200 sittings, of which 800 are free, but it is quite inadequate for the large number of people who frequent its simple service during the summer months. It stands on an eminence fronting the city, and forms a prominent object from the neighbouring hills. In the interior are a number of very handsome monuments in statuary marble, most of which were manufactured at the "Armagh Marble Works." The workmanship is very superior, and reflects great credit on the enterprising spirit of the proprietor.

To the right of the graceful avenue leading to St. Mark's, stands a very handsome Sunday School-house, erected at the expense of his Grace the Lord Primate.

#### THE CATHEDRAL.

Lord John George Beresford succeeded to the Primacy in 1822, and to him may properly be ascribed the beautiful appearance which our venerable Cathedral presents to the eye of the beholder. At what period it was constructed, in the form which it has come down to the present time, is a matter of great uncertainty. Inglis writes that it is the "oldest Cathedral Church in Ireland. Part of this venerable edifice was erected in the reign of Henry III, and the remainder part in the time of Edward III." Shortly after his promotion to the See, his Grace determined to repair the ancient structure, and Mr. Cot-

tingham, an eminent architect, was instructed to examine the building. That gentleman having minutely examined it, gave a most favourable report of its condition, stating that about £8,000 would put it into serviceable order. This sum his Grace at once consented to pay. The foundation stone of one of the piers was laid in great solemnity on 21st May, 1834, in presence of about 6,000 persons, who came to witness the interesting ceremony. During divine service, the Cathedral Choir, assisted by an instrumental band placed on an orchestra, temporarily fitted up, performed the *Dettingen Te Deum*, and several anthems from the Messiah.

In a short memoir of the Cathedral published at the time by Mr. John Davidson, M.R.I.A., we read that "in the prosecution of the work, various discoveries interesting to the Archæologist were made, and the nobility and gentry manifested great interest in the completion of the building by subscribing largely." The reconstruction of such an ancient edifice soon became a matter of great importance, and Mr. Cottingham was empowered to beautify and make such alterations as were necessary for the permanence of the building. The total sum expended was £36,000, of which only £10,000 was raised by subscription, the remainder being paid by his Grace the Lord Primate.

Armagh Cathedral measures in the clear 184 feet from east to west, 119 feet from north to south, and 59 feet across the nave and aisles. The church is cruciform, the west end forming the principal entrance. It is adorned with many ornamental and obituary windows, which throw out a steady and "dim religious light." The lancet window in the west end, as well as those in the north and south transepts contain the armorial bearings of some Dignitaries of the Cathedral, and many of the principal contributors to the repair of the building. In the aisles are two obituary windows—one to the memory of the late Dr. Kidd, erected by his friends in 1852. The other records the deaths of Wm. Blacker, who died 27th October, 1850, and of Rev. Samuel Blacker, L.L.D., who died in 1849. Adjoining the south transept there is a very handsome window, on which are designed the principal events of

our Saviour's life. It was presented by the Rev. Andrew Vogan, rector of North Marden, diocese of Chichester, a native of this city, and son of one of its oldest and most respectable inhabitants.

Of those in the chancel, five in number, put up by the Lord Primate, one contains the figures of the four Evangelists, designed and painted by the late Mrs. Dunbar. One ornamental window over the Communion table. One in memory of the Very Rev. Thomas E. Jackson, Dean and Rector of Armagh, who died at Paris, August 3rd, 1843.

On the remaining two are inscribed—

“Lady Catherine Beresford, who departed this life on 24th June, 1831, in the 66th year of her age.”

“Sacred to the memory of the Lady Anne Beresford, daughter of “George, First Marquis of Waterford, who departed this life in Dublin, “November 24th, 1841, in the 62nd year of her age, and whose remains are interred in the family vault at Curraghmore, County “Waterford.”

The friends of the late Rev. Cosby Stopford Mangan, Rector of Derrynoose (formerly Curate of Armagh), intend to mark their respect for his character by perpetuating his memory by means of a memorial window in this Cathedral.

In the aisles and chapter-room are many monuments of celebrity, one in particular, erected to the memory of Dean Drelincourt, by Rysback, as also one in memory of Sir Thomas Molyneux, Bart., M.D., by Roubiliac.

In the tower there is a peal of eight bells, two of which were purchased by the Lord Primate, thus with a competent set of ringers might be rung forty thousand three hundred and twenty changes.

By 15 and 16 Geo. III., the Cathedral is made the mother Church of Armagh, instead of the old “Parish Church” where the Rector was always inducted. Of this building there are at present no remains, but in a view of the Cathedral given in the first volume of “Ware's Bishops,” taken in 1739, a very small fragment may be observed on the south-east side.

During the winter months the Church is well lighted with gas, the



greater part of the expense attending the introduction of which was borne by the present Dean.

Divine service is celebrated at the hour of half-past 10 every morning, and at the hours of 11 and 3 on Sundays. The choral service is performed in the most becoming solemnity by the choir, who were characterised by the late Bishop of London as the "model choir" of these countries. The Services and Anthems, *with few exceptions*, are chosen from the good old school;—Handel, Boyce, Purcell, Green, Croft, Blow, Farrant, Tallis, Weldon, &c., &c., whose staid compositions are in strict keeping with the sacred services of the Church. To these benefactors of Cathedral establishments may be added the name of G. B. Allen, MUS. BAC. (a member of the Armagh Cathedral Choir), who has written several anthems, which for beauty, simplicity, and devotional feeling are deservedly admired.

#### THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR.

King Charles I., 23rd May, 1635, by letters patent, ordered that there shall be a company or college founded anew in the Church of St. Patrick, Armagh, to consist of EIGHT VICARS CHORAL AND ONE ORGANIST, to celebrate and administer divine service in the Church of St. Patrick for ever, according to the laws and customs of said company. To this body various tracts of land which had formerly belonged to the Culdees, were granted by the charter.

Primate Lindsey afterwards increased the Royal grant by an outlay of more than £4,000 in the purchase of a property in County Down.

#### VICARS CHORAL.

Rev. J. M. H. Strangways and Rev. James Hogan, Clerical Vicars.  
George Scott, ..... *Ceteri desunt*.  
Robert Turle, Organist and Master of the Boys.

#### STIPENDIARIES.

George B. Allen, George D. Hughes, and A. Talbot—ALTOS.  
Charles Wood, D. Thackery, J. Roberts, and W. Smith—TENORS.  
E. Rogers, W. Wood, J. Lee, N.M.N. Edmondson, R. Calvert—BASSES.

## THE MUSIC HALL,

situated on Vicars'-Hill, is the property of the Vicars Choral, who hold a concert there every Saturday evening for the practice of vocal and instrumental music. Under the guiding and restraining hand of the late Rev. R. Allott, who took particular care in the maintenance of instrumental music in connection with the Choir, Oratorios and the works of all the great Masters can be produced in a very creditable manner. At these rehearsals the Clerical Vicars with a few amateurs take part in the performance. There is an organ and a very valuable musical library in the Music Hall. In the purchase of this library, Mr. Allott had always in mind the style of music which would be best adapted for training the Choir to true Cathedral singing, and to his superior judgment and practical knowledge of music may fairly be attributed the high character which the Armagh Choir has obtained in "all the churches." Membership in olden times with the College at Armagh was a necessary recommendation for preferment in the Irish Church. The successors of the Culdees in the same place seem to have a similar honour conferred on their institution at the present day, as the Cathedral Choir of Armagh has been a school of discipline and a nursing mother to some of the best Cathedral Singers in England. The original "Vicars Hall" stood in Castle-street, supposed to be part of the remains of the old Culdee priory, which was nearly opposite the Castle, from which the street derives its name. Part of the grouted walls and arches of this castle remain to the present day.

The many public buildings, religious houses, viz., Gaol and Sessions-house, Post office, (on the site of which the late Mr. J. Bennet built a house) and merchants' offices being in this locality, would fairly lead us to conclude that it was the principal part of the city. King James II in his retreat from Londonderry resided for a time in a house in Market-street, at present occupied by the Constabulary; even so late as during the Rebellion of 1798, Lord Wm. Bentinck occupied the same quarters, in command of the Northern District.

## THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL.

This building, now in course of erection, is of the decorated style of Gothic architecture, from the design of the late Thomas J. Duff, Esq., of Newry, carried out with some deviation by J. J. M'Carthy, Esq., A.R.H.A., and was commenced in 1840, the first stone having been laid on St. Patrick's day in that year, by the late Most Rev. Archbishop Crolly. The ground of the site is a beautifully-situated hill N.W. of the city, and is part the property of Lord Cremorne and part that of George Robinson, Esq., both of whom gave leases in perpetuity for the purpose. It is built of the pale limestone, which abounds in the neighbourhood, finely cut, and from its elevation and colour is seen a great way off, the situation commanding a most extensive view of the surrounding country. Its length from front to eastern window is 240 feet, length across the transepts 142 feet, altitude of roof 110, ditto of western towers and spires 210 feet. There are four large windows of grand dimensions, filled with beautiful tracery; those of the choir and transepts are flanked with octagonal towers carried up to a great height, which gives the appearance of solidity chastened by their proportions, and the taste displayed in the stone-cutting and workmanship. These contrast well with the massiveness and strength of the western towers and great carved door-way fronting the town. The interior is divided into choir, nave, aisles, and transepts. The crossing of the roof is supported by four grand arches nearly 80 feet high, and twenty lesser ones of beautifully moulded white sandstone. The triforium range is composed of twenty-four arches filled with elegant tracery, springing from polished marble columns with numerous carvings and other embellishments, suited to the sacred character of the building. The clerestory windows are furnished with tracery uniform in character with the lower range.

The High Altar is to occupy the space formed by the crossing of the great arches of the choir; east of this is the Lady Chapel, and the Choir aisles north and south terminate in chapels. The altars in each are to be of marble richly carved and ornamented.



The organ gallery extends across the entire nave at the entrance end, and is so arranged that the organ when placed will not interrupt the view of the beautiful west window which rises high into the gable, the space between it and the door-way on the outside being filled up with a range or gallery of elaborately carved niches. The ceiling is a continuous Gothic vault with moulded ribs dividing into panels, supported on a series of groins springing from wall shafts and angel corbals.

Already there have been upwards of £30,000 expended on it, and the present contract lately entered on (which is to finish it) exceeds £15,000, so that we may conclude the entire cost when finished and ready for public worship, will be little short of £50,000, all of which for so far has been raised by voluntary subscriptions, the town and neighbourhood contributing about £7,000, the diocess at large about £8,000, and the rest collected throughout the kingdom, and the United States—England and Scotland being yet in reserve.

Twenty years ago this building was hardly thought of ; neither a site to be had nor a pound in the treasury ; and of the whole sum expended, and necessary for its completion, but about £10,000 remain to be collected, and if we may judge by the past zeal and earnestness of the present Ven. Archbishop, this sum will not be wanting in time. The present contractor is bound to have it finished in the summer of 1863—when no doubt it will add much to the many attractions of our ancient city.

#### THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

in Abbey-street, very near the site of the Abbey of SS. Peter and Paul was built in 1722 from the ruins of that ancient church. This locality is rendered interesting to the antiquary, as it originally contained, besides the Abbey to which the great school was annexed, St. Columba's Church (exactly opposite the Presbyterian frontage), with its beautiful cross, and Dr. Greuber's school. The "Inn," where King James II., on his way to the walls of Derry, and the "old knave Schomberg," slept ; the latter fully bent on driving Teig O'Regan out of the Castle of Charlemont ; and the "Gravel Walks"—the only spot in Armagh where John Wesley, in 1767 was permitted to preach the word of God.

Concerning the building of this house, Dr. Stuart says, "While the workmen were engaged in preparing the materials, Dean Swift, accompanied by a friend, went to the place and found the masons busily occupied in smoothing a number of curiously carved stones adorned with grotesque heads and the figures of cherubs which had probably been sculptured in the days of Imar O'Hædagan. "See," said Swift, turning to his friend "these fanatic Puritans are chiselling Popery out of the very stones."

In connection with this church, there has been erected in College-street, adjoining the Court-house, a very handsome Sabbath and Day School, at an expense of £1,100. The building is 66 feet long by 23 feet wide, in the clear, and has on its front an open Bible wrought in stone, with the words — "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy," and "Suffer little children to come unto me," surrounded by a scroll, on which is inscribed, "Train up a child in the way he should go." The interior is handsomely fitted up, and very commodious. The upper apartment, containing the congregational library is devoted to public lectures and the female school. The lower, which is appropriated to the male school, has a mural tablet, bearing the following inscription:—

"The foundation stone of this building, erected for Educational purposes, was laid on XXVII August, 1857, by Meredith Armstrong, of this city, Surgeon, who, together with a liberal donation in aid of the work, presented the site rent free, to the First Presbyterian Congregation of Armagh, to be held in trust by the Minister and his successors for ever."

The inscription on the handsome silver trowel which was used on the occasion completes the history of this interesting establishment:—

"Presented to Meredith Armstrong, Esq., by the Rev. J. Hall, and the members of the First Congregation, Armagh, on his laying the foundation of their Sabbath and Day School, originated by his judicious liberality, 27th August, 1858."

The total sum expended on the institution by Mr. M. Armstrong exceeded £500. J. W. Barre, Esq., Architect: Mr. John Farr, Contractor and Builder.

## THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL.

It is recorded that on the occasion of John Wesley's attempting to preach in Armagh on 15th April, 1767, a Town Constable went to him and said: "Sir, the Sovereign orders me to inform you, that you shall not preach in this town." At six o'clock, however, he proceeded to the Market-house and commenced his discourse, which was interrupted by Mr. Harcourt, who was that year Sovereign of the city. At this moment he was invited by Mr. Wm. M'Geough, a wealthy merchant, to preach in his avenue (the gravel walk), near the old School-house in Abbey-street.

After Mr. Wesley's first visit to Armagh in 1767, a society was organized, which in a short time increased in numbers and respectability. The place where this infant Church first assembled for public worship was an humble cottage in Thomas-street, appropriated for that purpose. In process of time the house became too small, and in 1786 a neat and commodious Chapel was erected in Abbey-street, near the spot where the founder of the society preached his first sermon in Armagh. In 1835 a much larger and more handsome edifice was built on the same site, capable of accommodating 400 persons. In the inside of the chapel is a mural tablet, on which is inscribed—

"Sacred to the memory of Mr. JOHN NOBLE, of the City of Armagh, "who for half a century discharged the duties of a Local Preacher with "unwavering fidelity and unwearied zeal. This testimonial of regard "is erected by those friends who revered him for his ardent piety, as a "tribute of respect for his worth, of love for his virtues, and of regret "for his loss. Died August 5, 1827. Aged 69 years."

The approach to this place of worship was long marred by a number of low thatched cabins which destroyed the appearance of the street, and considerably lessened the value of the adjoining property. With regard to the purchase of these unsightly ruins much difficulty was experienced owing to the number of tenures. However, one of the trustees of the society, by a happy combination of circumstances, succeeded in purchasing the entire premises. On this spot is now erected the



## SABBATH AND DAY SCHOOL-HOUSE,

the foundation stone of which was laid by Dr. Lynn, in presence of a large and respectable assembly, with a silver trowel, on which was engraved: "Presented to Joseph M. Lynn, Esq., M.D., by the Armagh Wesleyan Society, on the occasion of his laying the first stone of their new School-house, August 19, 1859, as a mark of their high estimation of his character, and gratitude for his untiring and successful efforts in promoting so desirable an object."

This edifice, measuring in the clear 52 feet in length by 19 broad, was opened 10th June, 1859. J. W. Barre, of Newry, Esq., Architect; Mr. Thomas Ross, of Armagh, Contractor and Builder.

His Grace the Lord Primate contributed £140, and the Toll Committee £75, in consideration of enlarging the street and beautifying the approach to the Cathedral. The entire cost, including the purchase of tenements, amounted to £1,000, of which Dr. Lynn contributed £200.

## ARMAGH DRELINCOURT SCHOOL.

*Extract from Report of the Endowed School Commissioners.*

## FOUNDATION.

Burgesses and Commonalty gave grant of 8 acres, 1 rood and 8 perches, on 25th September, 1838. Primate Boulter gave grant of 13 acres, 0 roods, and 31 perches; and Mrs. Drelincourt grant of fee farm rent of £90, on 12th June, 1747. Primate Robinson also gave a renewable lease of 115 acres. The estimated value of the premises is £17 10s. 7d., and the net annual income from the land amounts to £224 15s. 11d.

## OBJECT.

For the establishment of a charity working school for 20 boys and 20 girls, to be boarded, lodged, and instructed in linen manufacture, husbandry, and housewifery; two scholars to be nominated by the Rector of Clonfeacle, and the remainder by the Rector of Armagh.

## MASTER'S SALARY, &amp;c.

The annual salary of the Master is £64; the apartments and garden are valued at £10; of this the Mistress gets share; there is an allow-

ance of £3 per annum for an assistant. The course of instruction includes reading, writing, grammar, geography, arithmetic, Euclid, mensuration, and bookkeeping—together with the Scriptures and Church Catechism. 50 of the boys get their education free—the rest pay a penny a week.

*Extract from the Report of Edward Pennefather, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, who inspected the School.*

"Fifty boys are now clothed annually out of the Trust Funds;—With reference to this appropriation of the funds, "it was stated to me that in 1834 a petition was presented to the Court of Chancery by the Lord Primate and the then Rector of Armagh, upon which an order of reference to the Master in Chancery was made, to approve of a proper scheme for the future regulation and management of this trust estate, including the school. The Master made his report, which was confirmed, and the present management is in accordance therewith."

#### THE MALL SCHOOL

was erected by Primate Stuart in 1818. According to the Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into Endowed Schools, we have as follows:

FOUNDATION.—Primate Stuart, deed of Charge, 7th Nov., 1820, to Dean and Chapter of Armagh, house property, and £969 4s. Government Stock. £2,000 expended in building; site held in fee.

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.—Reading, writing, grammar, geography, arithmetic, Euclid, algebra, mensuration, book-keeping, Scriptures; Church Catechism to those who do not object.

#### ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE,

adjoining the Roman Catholic Cathedral, is the Diocesan R.C. College of St. Patrick, founded by the late Ven. Archbishop Crolly, for the education and training of students for Maynooth. It was intended to accommodate 100 boys, and has lately been much enlarged and improved by the present resident Dean—the Rev. J. M'Mahon, who has done much to add to the convenience and comfort of the scholars. It is open to day pupils from the town, who largely avail themselves of its advantages.

## CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOLS, GREENPARK.

These Schools were opened here on the 24th Nov., 1851, and are a branch of the Institute founded in Waterford in 1802, after the model of De la Salle of Paris, by the late Edmond J. Rice, a wealthy merchant of that city, who retired from business and devoted the remaining years of his life to the establishment of these schools. The institution is conducted here by a superior and two assistant "Brothers," and is for male children only. Between 300 and 400 pupils attend daily.

## CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART,

a religious establishment, first opened here at the Pavilion in 1852 for the double purpose of religion and education. The present building has been erected since then, at a cost of upwards of £7,000, and is most commodiously laid off, having class-rooms, refectories, and dormitories for upwards of 100 pupils, with chapel, &c., &c., and a large extent of pleasure ground for exercise. The site was judiciously chosen for health and prospect, on a hill westward of the city, the property of Miss Quinn. (Rocque erroneously makes the Windmill-hill the site of Na Fearta, or the church of wonders.) It is presided over by a superioress and a number of Nuns who superintend the educational department. There are about 60 young ladies at present in the Institution. In connexion with the Convent is a School for the education of the female children of the poor, under the National Board, where they are also instructed gratuitously by the Nuns in all the useful branches of needle-work and female industry.

Besides the public buildings already enumerated, there is a Roman Catholic Chapel situated to the South East of the Cathedral, and the site is marked by Rocque as the place where St. Bridget's Church stood. On these premises was found the seal of one of the Deans of Armagh, namely, Joseph, Dean from 1256 to 1262, bearing the legend, † S. JOSEB DECANI ARDMACHANI. The *Dublin Penny Journal*, (vol. II., p. 112) contains a description of this Seal.

Two Presbyterian Churches, the Tabernacle in College-street, used by the "Independent" denomination; a Primitive Wesleyan Chapel,



in Abbey-street, occupying the site where John Wesley preached ; the Protestant Hall and Reading Room ; the Shambles, erected by his Grace the Lord Primate, in 1827 ; and the Savings' Bank establishment in 1818—Actuary, Mr. Thomas Smith.

## PRIMATE ROBINSON.

The inhabitants of Armagh have not done justice to the memory of their great benefactor, Primate Robinson. He found their city a nest of mud and wattle cottages, and left it adorned with public buildings of great architectural beauty. He distributed upwards of £40,000 in these great and noble works, without the remotest view to the present or future interest of himself or family, and has left unfading monuments of virtue, benevolence, and patriotism. In addition to these public charities, he left £1,000 to assist in building a Chapel of Ease, with an acre of ground for its site, between the Barracks and Royal School ; £1,000 to the County Infirmary ; to the Corporation of Armagh, £200 in trust, "that they may advance a sum of money on a proper security to any tradesman or artificer that will engage to settle in the City of Armagh on the expiration of their apprenticeships ; £200 to the Charitable Loan of Armagh, and £200 to the poor of the parish. "I give and bequeath," said he in his will, "to the Governors and Guardians of the Armagh Library, £5,000 in trust, to be disposed of by them at their discretion, for the use of another University, which may be hereafter established in Ulster, provided that the incorporation of such an University shall be completed in five years after my decease," and lastly, "I desire my remains may be deposited in the Cathedral Church of Armagh, as that City has been the principal place of my residence since my advancement to the primacy, and the inhabitants have been witnesses to the regular exertions of my mind for a succession of years, in promoting a variety of public works for the future benefit and improvement of that ancient City, in which the Christian religion was first preached in Ireland."

The only record which we have of this great and good man, is a *bust*, erected by his nephew to his memory in the Cathedral—a monument altogether unworthy of so exalted a character. *Verb. sap.*—

You all did love him once, not without cause ;  
What cause withholds you then to mourn for him ?

## MODERN IMPROVEMENTS.

Since the death of Primate Robinson, great changes have taken place in Armagh, effected chiefly by the improved taste and enterprising spirit of its inhabitants, and partly by the Town Commissioners and liberality of the Toll Committee, who have always manifested a laudable zeal for the cleanliness and improvement of the city. His Grace the Lord Primate has also rendered effective service by subscribing largely when occasion required, by which means the footpaths of the city have been kept constantly flagged in a neat and substantial manner. In fact it would be difficult to find in this country, a town whose affairs are more judiciously or more honestly conducted than those of Armagh.

## THE TOLL COMMITTEE,

in the year 1855, partly by purchase and partly by gift, procured from W. Jenkinson and Charles Cavanagh, Esqrs., half an acre of ground in Irish-street, which they converted into a neat, commodious and excellent Flax Market, at an expense of £500. For this outlay the Committee derive no manner of remuneration, their sole object being the extension of trade and general improvement of the city. This new enclosure has been of infinite service to the adjacent locality, as the vast quantities of flax, the produce of the surrounding country, which had been previously exposed for sale or tendered to the various flax-buyers in the streets during winter, caused great irregularity and completely obstructed the thoroughfare.

To suit the convenience of victuallers and the public, who complained that the old Shambles were inconveniently situated and out of the general traffic, the Toll Committee, in 1857, expended £400 in erecting a New Meat Market, from which they derive an income of about £13 per annum. Part of the old Shambles is used as a Hide Market, and it is in contemplation to appropriate the remainder of the building in the establishment of a Market for Irish-grown hay, grass, and flax seeds.

The Egg and Poultry market which was formerly held in the Linen Hall, is now transferred to the premises on the South side of Dobbin-

street, lately occupied by Mr. William Boyd. This change was rendered necessary in order to relieve the Butter Market, which has so rapidly increased of late, as to be of the greatest benefit to the butter producers in this neighbourhood. In carrying out this desirable accommodation, the Toll Committee expended £500.

#### THE PIPE WATER COMMISSIONERS

finding that the supply of water through the wooden pipes, laid down in 1800 by Messrs. Thomas Prentice, William Cochrane, William McWilliams, and John Singleton, were not only partially decayed, but also insufficient in capacity of bore to supply the inhabitants effectually with water, substituted a nine inch metal Main pipe, running from the reservoir to College-street—the cost of which, with collateral branches to the side streets, was about £1200. This necessary expenditure was most valuable to the inhabitants, as in 1848, the tenants, 300 in number were constantly demanding water, which, under the old plan could not have been supplied. Under the present arrangement, the houses of 470 inhabitants receive a sufficiency of water at stated hours during the week, the regularity of which is guaranteed by the faithful servillance of their Secretary, Mr. Robert Cochrane.

In addition to this, the Commissioners have erected four public Fountains in places best suited to the wants and accommodation of the poor, to whom this generous provision, both in a sanitary and useful point of view, must be a great blessing and convenience.

#### ARMAGH MARBLE.

The quantity of building materials necessary for the erection of public edifices in the time of Primate Robinson, caused the opening of several quarries on the south side of the city. The Marble procured from this locality has been used from time immemorial for ornamental and other useful purposes. Even now the nobility and gentry of this and the Sister Country are occasionally supplied with handsome chimney-pieces and mural tablets from the extensive "Marble Works" of Mr. David M'Cullough. The pathways being generally composed of this material, has led to the belief that Armagh streets are paved with marble.



"Near the city of Armagh," writes Wilkinson, "there is a light-coloured limestone of excellent quality, and it is extensively used in the buildings of the town. Its colour is a light pinkish grey, very fossiliferous, and takes a very good polish. When polished it shews a warm yellowish colour, but when worked by the tool it is whitish, and is commonly used both for rubble and cut stone. Beds of a redder colour alternate with the white stone, and are worked into chimney-pieces and other ornamental works, but are not used externally."

## PUBLIC WALKS.

### THE MALL.

In 1797 Primate Newcome granted a lease of a certain portion of "The Commons," extending from the Gaol to the Court-house, to the Sovereign and Burgesses of the city, for the purpose of making a public walk for the inhabitants. The Park, containing seven or eight acres, is traversed with walks and encircled with a double row of beech, elm, and sycamore trees, on the outside of which runs a parapet wall coped with cut stone.

In these grounds is placed a large gun, the only trophy which we possess of the Crimean war. It was captured from the enemy at Sebastopol by the bravery of our troops, and presented by Government to the inhabitants of Armagh, some of whose sons fell "fighting for their country." With this Trophy and the Monument to his memory in the Cathedral, is associated the fate of one of her bravest sons, Lieut. THOMAS OSBORNE KIDD, R.N., who fell in the attack on the Redan on the 18th of June, 1855.

To the south of this memorial stands a handsome *jet d'eau*, placed there to commemorate the occasion of the "Great National Show" being held in Armagh in 1854.

### THE PAVILION.

On the north east side, adjoining the Session-house, is the "Pavilion," the property of Mr. Stanley, who contributes much to the enjoyment of the inhabitants by throwing open the "grounds" at seasonable hours. Not many years ago there was within twenty yards of the handsome entrance to the Pavilion, a pool of water surrounded by an embankment of earth which was then known as the *Horse Pond*. The face of the hill

to the north and east of the residence of Mr. Stanley was originally denominated *Knockmeala*, i.e. the hill of honey—so called from the number of bees which were always found there.

## DOBBIN'S WALKS

present to the eye of the delighted visitor a number of miniature beauties. Within the three quarters of a mile—the extent of the vale, there is a diversity of pictures which art and nature appear to have entered into rivalry to produce. There is an impetuous little torrent splashing and sparkling over rocks and little waterfalls, catching here and there, wherever it can, a glimpse of sunlight from the dense foliage which hangs over it.—

“So wondrous wild, the whole might seem  
The scenery of a fairy dream.”

Then it turns into a placid dark stream, flowing at the foot of a sloping lawn, then up again another turn, and lo! a miniature Dargle, little cliffs with great trees forming a network of roots over them, and sometimes even across the stream. Then there is a large waterfall, and above it, the greatest surprise of all, a peaceful, beautiful lake. On one side a hill clothed with trees to the water's edge—on the other, a hill “with verdure clad,” and a well kept gravel walk at its foot. It is a fairy scene, “delightful to the sense,” and we almost expect to find some of the good people peeping out on us as we turn round some little crag, or climb to the top of some little precipice—

Here amid the shady woods,  
Fragrant flowers and crystal floods,  
Taste, my soul, this charming seat,  
Love and Glory's calm retreat.

## KILDARTON LAKE.

Within a mile and-a-half (east) of Armagh, lies Kildarton Lake, or as it is called “Hibernice”—Lowry's Lough, from a person of that name who is supposed to have been drowned there a great many years ago. Were this charming spot within the regular line of Tourists' ramblings, the Armachienses would soon discover that they have some little bits of scenery equal at least to the much vaunted gems of

County Wicklow. Imagine a sheet of beautiful clear, deep blue water lying nestled in a hollow, amidst hills rising in graceful undulations ; not smothered, but inlaid with groups of planting, surrounded on all sides by a belt of lofty trees which overshadow a grassy walk completely encircling the water—an island covered with trees and brushwood down to the water's edge, nay, growing out of the water itself. Listen to the cheerful notes of the different wild fowl with which the surface of the lake is covered, and thank the Armagh Commissioners, who keep in order for the public use, so charming and beautiful a promenade.

The accompanying Circular, issued in 1839, gives a full description of this Lake and Pleasure ground :—

#### IMPROVEMENT OF LOWRY'S LAKE.

A few gentlemen in this city, in conjunction with the " Commissioners of Pipe Water," being anxious for the preservation and improvement of Lowry's Lake, formed a project for attaining both these ends. To carry their views into effect, they raised a considerable sum, by subscription, with which they have nearly completed a beautiful riding ground and promenade, which surround the lake. The funds, however, are now exhausted ; and, in order to raise the necessary sum to complete the works, it is proposed to admit about twenty additional subscribers, of £1 each to *the original list*, whereby they and their families will be privileged to use the grounds during the life-time of such subscribers. When the list has been filled up, future subscribers, except the representatives of the original subscribers, will not be admitted under £2 each. Ample funds could easily be obtained by voluntary donations ; but the committee feel that such a mode of raising money would defeat the object which should be kept in view—namely, giving to the grounds about the lake, as far as it is possible, the security and protection of private property.

Lowry's Lake is a beautiful sheet of water, calmly embosomed among the surrounding hills ; and as it is the only lake in the immediate vicinity of Armagh, and the reservoir from which the city is supplied with water, it is desirable and necessary that it should be carefully preserved.

In consequence of the improvements which the committee have accomplished, they have been enabled to prevent persons from bathing in the lake, while, at the same time, they have added four feet in the



depth of the water, thus preserving its purity, and augmenting the supply to the inhabitants of Armagh.

On the embankment, within the fence, the delightful exercise ground is nearly a mile in length, and is now available to the subscribers and their friends alone. In the lake there is a small island, which has been tastefully laid out and planted, and on which a flag-staff has been reared, from which "the British Ensign proudly floats." A boat, the property of one of the subscribers, has been generously placed, by that gentleman, at the command of those privileged to enter within the grounds.

On the summit of the hill at the N.E. side of the Lake stands Kildarton Church, a plain and unpretending structure, completely embosomed in lofty trees. It is built close to one of the most ancient grave yards in the country, in the midst of which was formerly either a Church or some Religious establishment. In fact, a few years ago the whole face of the hill, East of the Lake, now in possession of Mrs. Dobbin, was one great cemetery, and yet bears traces of the past.

The Tripartite life of St. Patrick states, "Thither (Armagh) also came on a pilgrimage, the nine daughters of the King of the Longbardi, and Monessin, daughter of the King of Britain. They arrived at Coll-na-ningen, (*i.e.*, the Hazelwood of the Virgins) on the East of Armagh, and three of them were afterwards buried there. The rest were directed to go to Druim-Finnedha, and one, namely Crumtheris, took up her abode at Ceanngoba, (*i.e.*, the hill of grief), near Armagh, on the East, where she founded a religious cell." Dr. Petrie appears to have had some information as to the locality, for he says, p. 350:—"A still earlier example of a stone oratory, in the neighbourhood of Armagh—one coeval with St. Patrick himself, and of which some ruins yet remain—is preserved to us in the Tripartite life of St. Patrick."

Dr. Reeves writes, "I have been unable to ascertain where this was. It would be well if some of those who are acquainted with this neighbourhood would determine the place he alludes to. I may mention, however, that the tradition of the country connects the memory of the nine pilgrims with Armaghbreague, in Upper Fews."

If a conjecture on the subject might be hazarded, it is most probable that Kildarton is the spot which Dr. Petrie refers to, for it is the only place "*east of Armagh*" where even the slightest trace remains of ecclesiastical ruins; and moreover the name Ceanngoba, "the hill of grief,"

not only appropriately describes the "city of the dead," but the present name by which the townland is known—Ternascobe, is not only similar in sound but also in form to the more ancient one above mentioned. The name of the Parish, *Kildarton*, also serves to identify the site, as the Irish *Cille* or *Kil* denotes both a sepulchre and a church. The oldest inhabitant affirms that in his youth the walls of the building (oblong, east and west) were seven feet high ; the remains of which were long since used for building purposes. An excavation was lately made, and a portion of a well-fitting pavement was uncovered about five feet below the present surface, but the vast mass of mouldering carcasses which have turned it into a charnel-house renders for the present further discoveries impossible.

From Ceanngoba, following the course of the lake and passing the "rocky field," we come to a locality which in olden times was covered with hazel trees. Many bushes of this description still remain, but the Chronicler of the district complains that they are "much harrished by the poor people for fire-wood, but what can we do?" The common tradition of the country states that this place being so thickly studded with hazel trees in olden times was called the "hill of hazels." In turning over the soil several coins have been found from time to time. Between this site (to which I think we may fairly give the ancient name of *Coll-na-ningen*) and Ceanngoba is the "rocky field," from which immense quantities of masonry, which the country people call "streets," have been removed.

As it is probable that this interesting discovery may form the subject of a separate notice, I shall say no more, trusting that some more competent person may be tempted from reading these few remarks, to undertake further researches.

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# TOPOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES


IN

ARMAGH AND TYRONE,

BY

EDWARD ROGERS,

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SECOND EDITION.

ARMAGH:

J. M'WATERS, JUN.

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# TOPOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF

## ARMAGH, AND TYRONE.



### THE RIVER CALLAN AND ITS ASSOCIATIONS.

THE first mention made of this ancient river appears in the Annals of the Four Masters, which states, that in the reign of Tighernmas—Monarch of Ireland, in the year of the world 3656, or 348 years before the Christian era, the three black rivers of Ireland burst forth, viz., Fubhna (Oona River in Tyrone) Forann and Caillainna, “at Ard-mach.” Leaving the stream to pursue the uneven tenor of its course for centuries, it turns up again in the year 846 in connection with Niall III., King of Ireland; who, from subsequent events, is known to posterity by the name of Niall Caille. This Niall was the ancestor of Brian O’Neill and Monarch of Ireland from the year 833 to 846, when he was drowned in the river Callan “near Ard-mach” from which he received the appellation of “Caille.”

About this time the Danes or Normans made a fort and had shipping on Lough Neagh for the purpose of spoiling and wasting the North of Ireland; and the annals record that in the year 839, the city of Ard-macha, with its oratories and great church were burned down by the Danes from Lough Neagh. On the death of Niall, Malachy mounted the throne. The Danes overran the kingdom and struck terror throughout the land; and the king convened the States at Ard-macha to consult for the general safety and expulsion of the invaders,

“During the reign of Niall Caille writes Stuart, many battles were fought between the Irish and the Danes, with various success. Niall, finding himself sufficiently powerful to invade the territories conquered by the Danes in Ulster, advanced against Armagh, the headquarters of his savage enemies. The Danes, confident of success, met him, and the adverse host closed, spear to spear—man to man; the troops of Niall, thirsting for vengeance, fought with a desperate valour which made them irresistible. The Danes were completely overthrown, and in the universal route were slaughtered by the victorious Irish without mercy. Those who survived the battle fled towards the river Callan, probably to get a temporary refuge in the Navan Fort. The river was swollen from a torrent of rain which had fallen and interrupted the march of the victorious army in their progress to Armagh.

At the foot of Tullamore hill, which the river divides from Umgola, Niall halted his troops. At his command, one of his warriors endeavoured to pass the ford on horseback, but was instantly hurried from his steed by the impetuosity of the waters. Niall, who, with strong emotions, saw him struggling for life, commanded his guards to make every effort for his preservation. In vain was the command obeyed, terror fixed them to the spot immovable. The magnanimous king dashed forward with a generous resolution to save his friend or perish in the attempt. As he approached the bank of the river, the ground, undermined by the torrent, sank beneath his horses feet, the monarch was precipitated into the flood, where death at once closed his career of victory and his life. His body was deposited in a grave dug in Tullamore, on the bank of the river where he had so prematurely perished. A simple

mound of earth, which tradition has from generation to generation denominated "Niall's Mound," lately marked the spot where the sovereign of Ireland lies in the silence of death.

Warner (History of Ireland) gives a pretty similar account of the occurrence.

"After the overthrow of the Danes, Niall came to the banks of the river Caillann with a design to ford it, and finding it swelled to a great height with some heavy rains, he ordered one of his retinue to try the depth of it before he ventured in with all his train: but the stream being very rapid and washing him off his horse, and those whom the king had ordered to his succour not being willing to risque their lives, Niall himself resolved to hazard his own person in order to save him. With that view he pushed his horse boldly to the side of the stream where the man was drowning; but the ground, being undermined with the washing of the water, it immediately gave way; his horse and he were both tumbled into the river, and they shared the fate of the man whom the king had attempted to save." Thus died Niall III., thirteen years in the Sovereignty of Ireland, in the fifty-fifth year of his age.

This unfortunate Prince, had it appears some warning to avoid the river Callan, for it was predicted some time before that he should be drowned in that stream, which was the sad occasion of his name, and he was always mentioned afterwards by the name of Niall Caille. In commemoration of his untimely death was written:—

A curse on thee O severe Callainne, thou stream like mist from a mountain,  
Thou hast painted death on every side, on the warlike brunette bright face of Niall

And again:—

I love not the sorrowful water, which flows by the side of Maras,  
O Caillainne who shall boast of it? Thou hast drowned  
The son of an illustrious woman.

With every regard for the tradition which points out the spot where Niall was drowned, it is very difficult indeed to arrive at a safe conclusion, as the river is so very crooked that its adverse banks are continually crumbling away with the impetuosity of the stream. The great depth of the river and its impending banks at this place would, however, lead us to give some credence to the story. Those who take an interest in our local topography will at once observe that the bed of the river suddenly sinks here, and the banks so precipitous with rocky sides, that it very probably maintained its original course. In fact, it is the only likely spot for several miles where such a catastrophe could have occurred, at least from the present appearance of the river.

There are three rivers named Callainn in Ireland; one in the County of Armagh, the other in the County Kilkenny, and the third in the valley of Glanarough, in the County of Kerry.

It is not at all surprising that the late Dr. O'Donovan, who had never been in the neighbourhood of Armagh, made several topographical errors regarding occurrences which took place in this locality, and I have the misfortune to dispute a statement which is recorded by him in a foot-note under the name "Caille," in the first volume of the Four Masters. The assertion or interpretation is given, and by him alone, without any attempt at proof or reasoning; and I will merely copy the passage, and let the reader form his own conclusion:—"The Callainn in the County of Kilkenny is probably the one in which this king was drowned."

Now, is it not strange that Dr. O'Donovan, in the earlier part of the very volume from which the extract is taken, identifies this water as "the river Callan, in the County of Armagh?" and in the "Miscellany" of the Celtic Society, which he edited in 1849, he reiterates the statement, that "Niall was drowned in the river Callan near Armagh, from which he received the cognomen of Caille or Cailne!"



The fact also of Malachy assembling the states at Armagh immediately on the death of Niall is a strong proof that the seat of war was at Armagh and not Kilkenny.

The learned Charles O'Connor, in his "Dissertations on the History of Ireland," (p. 234), affirms that the occurrence took place at Armagh. Seward (*Topographia Hibernica*). Keating and Stuart also join testimony to the same effect, whilst Ware and Lannigan are silent on the matter.

It is, therefore, hard to say, how or by what authority the learned Dr. O'Donovan was led to change his first ideas on this subject. The statement may have been unintentional or a typographical error, but it is contrary to common sense and undoubted historical proofs brought forward in favour of Armagh. There are very few interesting reminiscences, beyond what are termed *Eccelesiastical*, connected with this ancient city, and so its inhabitants, are not yet prepared to part with the historical associations of Niall III., and the river Callan, which takes its rise about six miles south of Armagh near the town of Keady and flows westward in a northern direction. The river is supplied from three lakes—the largest of which is called "Clay," and augmented by various streams in its descent from the mountains. Following the tortuous course of the stream until it joins the Blackwater at Charlemont, which in a direct line is about nine miles—it traverses probably more than twelve, owing to the extraordinary windings of the river in some places. This, however, has its advantages, for on its banks are constructed upwards of forty mills which keep thousands of poor people in constant and remunerative employment. At a place called Ballanaboy (*Bellanatha buidhe*) or Yellow Ford, Sir Henry Bagenal and the Queen's troops in 1598 crossed the river Callan when going to meet Hugh, Earl of Tyrone, who was then encompassing the Fort at Blackwater.

The word Callan in Irish, means loud talk, noise or calling; and, perhaps, the name signifies the "Echoing River."

## THE ANCIENT SCHOOL, OR COLLEGE OF ARMAGH.

IN the course of his missionary labours, St. Patrick determined to adopt the most effectual means for transmitting to posterity the doctrines which he had so sedulously taught. Under this impression he founded in Armagh.

### A SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

which, in process of time, became famous throughout all Europe. The foundation of the School at Armagh, is to be traced to a very remote period in the judgment of those who are champions of Irish Antiquity, while this seems to be little more than conjecture in the estimation of others; but of its early existence there can be no question. Like every similar School of learning in Europe—even of more modern date, it was insignificant in its commencement, but we find, even so late as the end of the 12th Century, though many changes have taken place, and a long night of darkness had intervened, that in the year 1169, Roderick, the last of the native Monarchs of Ireland, an encourager of learning, augmented the income of the Superior of Armagh College, stipulating that this *studium generale* should be continued to be kept open for all students who should come to Armagh. While yet the nations from whom the inhabitants of the greater portion of modern Europe are descended were sunk in the lowest depths of ignorance and idolatry, and before the Saxons had received an alphabet, there flourished at Armagh, a Seminary in which were taught the great truths of Christianity.

Spencer writes that the Saxons originally received their alphabet from the Irish, and consequently that they were unacquainted with every branch of literature until instructed by the learned of Ireland.

Head of Erin is great Ardmac,  
Not nobler is their high chieftains,  
The men of the world have their knowledge there.

The Annalist Friars of Donegal record that in the year 1387, Niall O'Neill, King of Ulster, built a house at Emania (now Navan Fort, near Armagh) for the entertainment of the learned men of Ireland. Emania was an "apt Parnassus" for the Northern Bards, whom the scene of the vicinity of Creeveroe, *i.e.* the Red Branch Knights, would inspire to sing the glories of the time when Emania flourished as the site of a dynasty, and when Cuchullin led the Red Branch Knights to danger.

Peter Walsh, quoting from the manuscript of Keating in the reign of Conchuuair Mhic Do-nochoe, (p. 57) says, "there being 7,000 scholars at one time in one of these Universities, to wit, Armagh, is a considerable evidence how learning had flourished at that time in Ireland. To all which may be added that they were the Irish of those days, who gave a beginning abroad, if not to the Schools of Oxford (for I have an author by me that says they did so even to these) yet certainly to those of Paris and Pavia, and to many other great colleges of learning in foreign parts, and the most famous monasteries of Europe."

O'Connor adds, "In the City of Ardmacha it is affirmed that no fewer than 7,000 scholars studied at the same time within its university; although the kingdom at that time contained several other Academies equally celebrated, if not equally numerous.

"The College of Armagh," writes Fitzgerald, vol. 1, p. 155, "ranked for many centuries amongst the most celebrated seminaries in Europe, having at one time 7,000 students within its walls. Roderick O'Connor made a grant to its professors. Gildas, a disciple of St. Patrick and the most ancient of the British historians, is said to have presided over it. The studies pursued in the Irish colleges were, theology, grammar, rhetoric, logic, music, geometry, astronomy and architecture. In the "Popular Encyclopædia," published at Glasgow, we find that, "in the middle ages Armagh was an extensive and populous city, and celebrated for its learning, having at one time 7,000 students at its college." But in more modern times, or three or four centuries preceding the Reformation, all the Irish colleges had passed into comparative insignificance, with the exception of that of Armagh; the high estimation in which that college was held, was attested by a synod of twenty-six Bishops, which Primate Gelasius convened at Clone (Diocese of Kildare), in 1162, when it was decreed, "that no person, for the time to come should be adopted as a public reader in Divinity, unless he had been a student fostered or adopted by Armagh.

Charlemagne of France placed the University of Paris and that of Ticinum, *i.e.* Pavia (the two first formed establishments of the kind on the Continent of Europe), under the care of two Irishmen—Albin and Clement, as best qualified to preside over such institutions. Aigilbert, the first Bishop of the Western Saxons, and afterwards Bishop of Paris, also Alfred, King of Northumberland, were educated in Ireland, most probably at Armagh.

O'Donovan, in the Dublin Penny Journal, vol. 1, gives a translation of a poem written in the Irish language by Alfred, King of the Northumbrian Saxons, during his exile in Ireland, when he was known by the name of Flann Fion.

The Royal poet, says:

I found in Ardmach, the splendid,  
Meekness, wisdom, circumspection.  
Fasting in obedience to the Son of God,  
Noble, prosperous sages;  
I found in each great church  
Whether internal, on shore or island,  
Learning, wisdom, devotion to God,  
Holy welcome and protection.

The foundation of the school of Armagh, writes Christopher Anderson, in his "Historical sketches of the native Irish," is to be traced to a very remote period, in the judgment of those who are partial to Irish antiquity; whilst this seems to be little more than conjecture in the estimation of others; but of its early existence there can be no question. In-

significant in its commencement like every similar school of learning in Europe, even of more modern date, still such men as have been already glanced at, who came out of Ireland in those early ages, there can be little doubt—owed whatever learning they possessed mainly to this seminary. Referring therefore to what has been already said of them, I might add here that even so late as the end of the 12th century, though many changes had taken place, we know as a matter of history that the last of the Irish kings augmented the income of the school, on condition of its being open for all students, as well from any part of Ireland as from Albanian Scotia.

Thus we see that Armagh was a chief seat of literature and religion, a “blazing star,” when most parts of the western world were involved in darkness and superstition. “In the minds of the English it should excite sentiments of gratitude and affection for our country, for it was to this seminary of education that England was in a great degree indebted for the rudiments of learning which have ultimately exalted her to such a pitch of glory.”

“Our Anglo-Saxons,” writes Camden, “went in those times to Ireland as if to a fair to purchase knowledge; and we often find in our authors, that if a person were absent from his own country, it was generally said of him, by way of proverb, that he was sent to Ireland to receive his education. It even appears that our ancestors, the ancient Anglo-Saxons, had learned the use of characters in Ireland; and from the Irish, our ancient English ancestors appear to have received their method of joining letters, and obviously made use of the same characters which the Irish now employ.”—P. 730.

“Britain! with shame confess this land of mine  
First taught thee human knowledge and Divine  
My prelates and my students sent from hence  
Made your sons converts both to God and sense.

Bede, in his Church History, writes that there were in Ireland many nobles and gentry from among the English, who, in the time of Finan and Colmanus, having withdrawn themselves thither, either for the sake of Divine study, or to learn more chaste lives: all of them the Scots most freely admitted, and supplied them *gratis* with daily sustenance, with books and masters.” Macpherson says, “In the 5th, 6th and 7th centuries, religion flourished in Ireland to such a degree that it was commonly styled the mother country of saints, and reputed ‘the kingdom of arts and sciences.’”

List of Masters since the modern foundation under James I. on the Plantation of Ulster:—

Thomas Lydiat, 1609; John Starkey, Isaac Collier or Collyer, 1671; Thomas Wadman, 1681; Joseph Crump, 1688; Richard Martin, 1691; Charles Carthy, 1740; Arthur Greuber, 1754; Thomas Carpendale, 1786; George Miller, 1817; W. H. Guille-mard, 1848; W. M. Morgan, the present master, 1869.

The original buildings, which were completed in 1772, cost over £5,000, of which £3,000 were advanced by Primate Robinson, and the remainder by Dr. Greuber. The late Primate in 1849 also advanced £3,000 for its enlargement, viz.:—On the Dormitory, School-room, and Private Apartments £1,360 9s. 6d.; Play-room with Dormitory, over £1,701 6s. 5d.; Ball Court, £67 4s. 9d.; Entrance and Cloisters, £167 7s. 4d.; Making altogether £3,296 8s. 0d.

Mr. John Davidson, in his evidence before the Endowed School Commissioners in 1857, (vol. i. p. 501), stated in reply to the question “Do you know where the old school-house stood?” “The late Mr. Evans of Derry, often told me he was at school in it, and it was situated on the left of where I live in Abbey-Street, opposite the Provincial Bank.”



## THE CASTLE OF ARMAGH.

THE history of this old structure is almost buried in obscurity. Dr. Reeves says that the castle which gave name to Castle-Street was a building unknown to early times and the Annalists, and therefore, never enters into their description.

Under the year 1074, Stuart in his *Memoirs of Armagh*, quoting from Colgan, 2d vol. p. 298, states "that on the Thursday after the Festival of St. Philip and St. James, Armagh was wasted with fire. The castle (*arx*) and the churches, with the bells, were destroyed. The city was again re-built; but in the year 1091, the castle, from its middle part (what does this mean?) towards the west, was materially injured with fire."

All Colgan's Notices of Armagh are translated by him from the Irish of the Four Masters, where the reader will find the original passages at the dates respectively which he assigns.

In translating the passage from Colgan, Stuart has evidently given a false interpretation to the word *arx*, which, according to the best authorities, means a high place or "Rath." Dr. Reeves says, "Wherever Colgan uses the word *arx*, he represents by it the Irish term *Rath*. The summit of the hill now occupied by the cathedral yard and houses, on the same level, was anciently called *The Rath Arda—Macha* or *Rath of Armagh*—and was exclusively devoted to churches and other religious buildings. It was Colgan's *arx*, having been the enclosed or fortified precincts of Daire's premises, before they were granted by him to St. Patrick. The outside belt of ground, all down the slopes to the low ground was subdivided into wards or districts, called the *Trians* (or literally *thirds*), which was the Irish term for what we express for quarter."

The original passages in the Four Masters run as follow, and from them it will be found that the word *arx* taken with *ex media parte* (middle part), and *cum suis ecclesiis* (all its churches) cannot mean a castle or building which was not larger than that erected about the same time by King John at Carlingford and other places.

A.D. 1020—"Ardmach tota incendio vastata usque ad arcem majorem." A.D. 1074—"Ardmach tota cum omnibus ecclesiis et campanis cum arce et reliqua urbis parte incendio vastata." A.D. 1092—"Arx ardmachana cum suis ecclesiis, &c., incendio vastantur," and at 1112—"Arx Ardmach cum templis"—i.e., the Rath (not castle) with all its churches, &c. We have, moreover, no evidence to show that even so far back as the year 1020 the state of the ancient city was such as to require the erection of a fortress like the castle; and it is more than probable it owes its origin to the troublesome times in the North of Ireland, subsequent to the invasion of Ireland in 1172 and the conquest of Ulster some years after. In pursuing this idea we find that in 1179 John De Courcey—the castellan of Ireland—plundered Armagh and William Fitz—Aldhelm carried off the staff of Jesus. Again, in the year 1184 Philip of Worcester, then Governor of Ireland, proceeded on a circuit, with a great military force, to visit the British garrisons stationed through the provinces. At the head of this army he entered Armagh, which he handed over to the tender mercies of his merciless soldiers, who robbed the churches; and amongst the plunder there appears to have been a certain "large cauldron or brewing pan" which was taken from the clergy of the city.

In 1210 King John landed with a great and well appointed army at Waterford. Shortly after we find English colonies interspersed over the whole face of the country, and castles erected through Ulster to protect their interests. Money was coined, and an attested copy of the great English Charter was transmitted to this country.

We come now to the period at which we determine the erection of the Castle of Armagh. The Marquis of Kildare, in his book of "The Earls of Kildare," published in 1864, states from Lodge's Peerage, vol. 1, p. 60, that "Maurice Fitzgerald, second Baron of Offaly, in


the year 1236, built the Castle of Armagh, of which there are no remains." Lodge, who in general is considered a good authority, unfortunately gives no reference for this statement; but the disturbed condition of Society which at that time agitated the North of Ireland would naturally lead us to infer that he is tolerably correct. At the period to which Dr. Lodge assigns the building of the Castle of Armagh, the English influence and power had gained much ground in Ireland, for the King directed his writ to the Archbishop of Armagh and the other prelates of Ireland, in which he decreed that his writs of common law should run into Ireland as well as England, and be equally efficacious in both countries.

We may then place the origin of this castle, subject to correction, at the year 1236, from which time its existence seems to have been almost entirely ignored in local history. Sir Henry Sidney, in 1575, gives a woeful description of this fortress:—"The towne is miserable; the forte imperfecte, not worthe the chardge of the keepinge, if there be peaceable proceedinge. The bridge and gate to garde it not half reared; but I have taken order it shall be finished, and very necessarye it is to be kept if peaceable proceeding be intended."

In the year 1596, we find that Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, suddenly marched to Armagh; cut off the fortress from communication with the other garrisons, and succeeded in forcing it to surrender before Sir John Norris could arrive to its relief. At the beginning of the present century, part of the premises were tenanted by the Rev. Dr. Burns, and at a later period by Robert O'Neill—a sheriff's officer. It was subsequently permitted to go to ruins, and the late John Ross occupied the premises by building on its site several dwelling-houses adjoining a lane called after the owner. The property has since fallen into the hands of William B. Kaye, Esq., who has taken care to preserve a piece of grouted mason work—the only remnant of this ancient fortress to be seen at the present day.

Something additional might have been furnished to render this article more interesting and attractive to the ordinary reader, yet, I hope sufficient has been given to induce some of our young men to add a page to so valuable a study. In this ancient city and immediate neighbourhood, there yet remains a large field for cultivation in the Archæological world, and I trust the attention of some members of the Philosophical Society will interest themselves by taking up the subject.

## THE PRIMATIAL RESIDENCE AT ARMAGH.

MID the universal levelling of society, spoliation of Church property—thrones tottering and nations falling, it may not be uninteresting to put on record the site of the Episcopal house or residence of the Bishops, from St. Patrick up to the present time. It is a subject peculiarly attractive to the Armagh Archæologist.

In the History of the ancient Churches of Armagh, Dr. Reeves states that the Abbott or successor of St. Patrick "had a separate abode inside the Rath, anciently enclosed within a rampart of its own. The first mention of it is in the Annals of Ulster, at 822. At the commencement of the 17th century," continues the Doctor, "there was a place and building at the north end of the Vicar's Hill, called the Archbishop's Court, which may have been a relic of the old residence. The Dean's holding may also have been a portion of the Episcopal premises, because in early times there was no Dean, and it is likely that when that dignity was instituted, the Court of St. Patrick retired from the Abbatial to his Episcopal functions, delegating the former to his new caputular president, and with it the holdings belonging to the office. At such a time it probably was that the Primate's Armagh residence was transferred to Bishop's Court, in Mullinure, lying N.N.E. of the city. The favourite residence, however, of the Primate was at Dromiskin and Termonfeekin, and



when the Primates did visit Armagh they took up their abode in one of the religious houses adjacent to the Cathedral. Thus, in 1460, Primate Bole occupied his chambers in the old Culdee Priory, between Castle-Street and the church-yard wall."

It is difficult to discover by whom the more modern Episcopal house of Armagh was built; most probably in 1562, by Adam Loftus—the second Protestant Primate; Hugh Goodacre having died within three months of his consecration. It is but little wonder that Adam Loftus did not reside at Armagh, when Shane O'Neill burned his residence. He resided generally at Termonfeckin, which was the "cheffe dwelling place" of the Archbishops of Armagh in those days. At this time the North of Ireland was ruined by the rebellion of Shane O'Neill, and Armagh was reduced to a "parcel of wattled cottages—the ruinous walls of a monastery and the Primate's Palace." In 1568, March 28th, "secret instructions were sent from Queen Elizabeth to the Lords Justices of Ireland, desiring them to hasten the building of the Cathedral and the Archbishop's house at Ardماغh, in order that the latter might serve as a lodging for the Viceroy, and also for the Councillors, who were about to be appointed as a Provincial Council for governing the North."

When Christopher Hampton succeeded to the Primacy in 1613, he built a handsome palace at Drogheda, where the Archbishops of Armagh had their Episcopal residence for three months in the year; but since the time of Primate Ussher they resided more frequently at Armagh.

Of this building we have an account in the Ulster Visitation Book, A.D. 1622, as follows:

"Item, in Drogheda a fayre house new built by the now Lo: Primate, wch cost his Lo:p alreadie 2064 lbs. 2s. 4d., and more buildings his Lo:p intends to add unto the same house—to which house there is a large garden walled with stone, at the charge of the now Archbp."

In Stafford's "State Letters," vol. ii. p. 262, the Archbishop of Canterbury writes to the Lord Deputy, A.D. 1638, "I am glad yr Lordship hath been at Drogheda, & that there you found one of the best houses in Ireland. It seems Primate Hampton did that good to the sea." In addition to repairing the Armagh Cathedral, which had been destroyed by Shane O'Neill—this prelate, according to the Ulster Visitation Book, under 1622, also rebuilt an old house at the west end of the Cathedral. The passage runs thus: "Imprimis, Christopher, now Archbishop, hath an old house at the west end of the cathedral church, whereunto his Lo:p hath added a new building, which did stand him in 160 lb., & more his Lo:p intends to bestow in building, if God spare him life. Item, 300 acres of land, by the now Archbp. for demeans, to the house above mentioned, which is set yearly for 30 lb." This is evidently the building alluded to by Dr. Reeves, situate at the north end of the Vicar's Hill—near the present library.

Primate Margetson, in the year 1670, "at his own peculiar cost," greatly adorned and repaired the Episcopal palace.

Primate Marsh rebuilt and repaired a dwelling-house for himself and his successors in 1704.

In Primate Lindsey's will, executed 25th Oct., 1722, he left £300 to his next successor, to aid in the purchase of a convenient house, for the residence of the future primates. In this devise there was a condition that he should not renew a lease to T. Dawson, Esq., of a house in Armagh, then in his possession, which his Grace was desirous should revert to the see, as a dwelling-house for the Archbishop. Dr. Lindsey alleged that Dawson had received a full compensation for this house, which had been partly rebuilt and partly repaired, at the expense of Primate Marsh, for the use of himself and his successors, but Dawson had refused to enter it, as no deed of surrender had been executed.



About this time the Archbishops changed their place of abode from the west of the Cathedral to a large house in English-Street, and held as such during the lives of the three succeeding prelates—Boulter, Hoadly, and Stone. Some of the walls were standing about forty years ago, and the office houses were used as stores by Mr. Hugh Kidd, who had a brewery close by. By referring to Livingston's map, surveyed for his Grace, Richard, Lord Primate of Ireland, in 1767, it will be observed that the site of the Primate's residence measured 139 feet, with the observation, "A very good house and offices." The edifice, however, was not such as to recommend itself as the future residence of Primate Robinson, so the premises were given up in the first instance to Mr. Macan, and subsequently divided into separate houses, at present in the possession of Messrs. J. S. Riggs and H. Hazelton. The frontage extended southwards as far as the corner of Russell-Street.

Robinson's intention was to have built a mansion on Tullyard Hill, but Dr. Averell, proprietor of the soil, would not transfer his title to the lands, and thus the Primate was obliged to change his original design.

The condition of this part of the city in 1740 may be imagined from certain orders made by the Town Commissioners at that time. "We present the sum of one shilling and one penny, to be levied and paid to Geo. Bell, to be by him laid out in cleaning the watercourse and throwing backe ye dunge on ye road between the Lord Primate's house and the west tenement adjoyning ye malt kiln, in order to keep ye same clean for ye future." "We present any person who shall be convicted at any time hereafter of throwing ashes or dung in ye said watercourse in ye sum of 6s. and 8d." And on the 20th January, 1743, "We present the sum of 7s., to be levied off ye inhabitants of this Corporation and ye lands thereunto belonging, and paid into ye hands of E. Harecourt, Esq., to be by him paid to Mr. M'Cartin, stonecutter, and the workmen that repaired the conduit across the street, between my Lord Primate's and Dr. Jenny's house." 1747—"£2 12s. 7d., to be expended in repairing the street before the Lord Primate's house."

When Dr. Robinson was removed from the see of Kildare to the Primacy, he built, in 1770, on the mensal lands, separated by Archbishop Hampton, a handsome residence measuring 90 feet by 60, for himself and his successors.

During the building of the Palace in the Demesne, Primate Robinson resided at Richhill.

When Primate Stuart came to this diocese the outlines of the demesne were properly defined, and he enclosed the mensal lands with a boundary wall, at a cost of £20,000, to be levied off his successors in due proportions.

On his accession to the primacy, the late Primate, Lord J. G. Beresford, expended an immense sum in building office houses and adding another story to the palace, which gives it a noble and graceful appearance.

Some of the apartments are adorned with valuable paintings, which were bequeathed by the founder to his successors, viz:—King Charles I., King William III., and Queen Mary, Queen Anne, Prince George of Denmark, King George I., George II., Frederick Prince of Wales, George III., Queen Charlotte, Elector of Hanover, Duke of Zell, together with several of the primates—fifteen in number—reaching down to the time of the present primate, from that of Henry Ussher, who was raised to the primacy in the year 1595, towards the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth. These complete the series of Protestant Archbishops of Armagh during that period.

The late Dr. Elrington, in his "Life of Archbishop Ussher" gives an account of the residence of the Archbishops of Armagh:—

"The Archbishop of Armagh had a residence in Palace-Street, Drogheda, and another at Termonfeekin, within a few miles from which Archbishop Ussher's letters were written. The house at Termonfeekin was destroyed in the rebellion of 1641, and never afterwards repaired. Archbishop Bramhall had collected materials for repairing the house and en-

closing the Park, but his death interrupted the work. He left by his will the materials to his successor, but the work was not completed. A small part of the wall was standing a few years ago, but it is now entirely destroyed. It is a very general mistake that the castle which still remains was the residence of Archbishop Ussher. It is so stated by Wright in his "Louthiana"—by Grosse, and by every successive writer. The Archiepiscopal residence stood close to the river on the west side. The castle is on the east side of the river, and is the property of the Rev. W. Brabazon, whose estate is separated by the river from that of the Archbishop of Armagh. The palace in Drogheda was repaired after the Restoration by Primate Bramhall, and subsequently enlarged by Primate Margetson, and continued the residence of the Primate until the appointment of Archbishop Boulter. The prominent part which that prelate took in the government of the country made it more convenient for him to reside in or near Dublin, and in this practice—most injurious to the Church—he was followed by his successors, Hoadely and Stone. During this period the palace at Drogheda was suffered to go to ruin, and there is now considerable difficulty in tracing its former site.

Archbishop Hampton seemed to have been the first prelate who made any arrangements for fixing the Episcopal residence at Armagh, and he separated 300 acres for mensal lands. Nothing further was done until Primate Marsh rebuilt a house in Armagh as a residence for himself and his successors. From some mistake a lessee of the Archbishop got possession of the house, and Primate Lindsay could not recover it, but left £300 to assist in procuring a residence, on condition of the lease not being renewed to the tenant, Mr. Dawson. The house was recovered, but remained in a very unfit state for the Primate's residence. When Dr. Robinson came to Armagh he built a handsome palace in the lands separated by Hampton. It is greatly to be regretted that the liberality and munificence of Primate Robinson was not guided by good taste or by any respect for the ancient remains of the country to which he had been removed. When Bishop of Ferns he had part of the venerable old cathedral pulled down, in order to build the walls of the churchyard, and he surrounded the ruins of the ancient abbey at Armagh with the farm offices. The late Primate, Lord J. G. Beresford, expended large sums of money in endeavouring to remove the original defects, but many of them are incurable. The farm yard is removed, and the Abbey is now enclosed, so as not to offend the good taste or good feeling of the visiter. The Abbey, however, is a very rude structure, without any pretensions to architectural beauty."

## THE CITY OF ARMAGH ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

**R**ICHARD ROBINSON, D.D., Bishop of Kildare, succeeded to the Primacy by patent, dated 8th February, 1765. He is acknowledged to have been one of the most vigilant prelates, and most munificent benefactors of the Church of Ireland. He built the palace of Armagh, and houses for the Vicars' Choral, erected a public school, an infirmary, a noble public library, an observatory; and also built several churches in the neighbourhood of Armagh, Drogheda, &c. In 1777, he was created Baron Rokeby; and on the death of his elder brother became a Baronet. He died at Clifton near Bristol on 10th October, 1794. His body was brought to Ireland, and was interred in his Cathedral at Armagh, where a marble bust, the *chef d'oeuvre* of Nollekins,\* has been erected to his memory with the following inscription beneath, on a mural tablet:—

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\* Nollekins long enjoyed the reputation of an admirable statuary. He was son of Joseph F. Nollekins, an artist of Antwerp, who, when young, settled in England. Cunningham in his "Lives of the Sculptors," says that although Nollekins was wholly ignorant of grammar and spelling, he was good in statues, but excellent in busts. At his death he left no less than £200,000.



Juxta situs est  
 Ricardus Robinson, Baro de Rokeby  
 hujusque Ecclesiæ per triginta fere annos  
 Archiepiscopus  
 Quo in munere obeundo  
 ingenii liberi et perspicacis  
 egregium prestitit exemplar  
 Avunculo suo et Patrono  
 Johannes Robinson  
 ejusdem Ecclesiæ haud ita pridem Archdiaconus  
 L(ugens) M(onumentum) P(osuit)  
 obiit octobris die decimo, 1794

Bacon, sculptor.

Annum agens octages sextum.

London, 1802.

A marble bust of him is also placed in the Library of Christ Church, Oxford, to which College he had been a most generous benefactor, and a portrait of him is preserved in the Hall.

To the munificence of nearly all the Archbishops since the Reformation, Armagh owes very much, but her great benefactor and restorer was Richard Robinson. Immediately after his promotion he repaired the Cathedral, and presented to the Vicars' Choral a fine-toned organ,\* incased in black oak, exquisitely carved, bearing the arms of the donor. The unhappy fate which this venerable instrument met deserves to be recorded. Whilst the Cathedral was undergoing repair, the organ was taken in pieces in the year 1834, and carefully placed in apartments over the stables in the Primate's demesne, where it could receive neither damp nor injury. Previous to the re-opening of the Cathedral in 1840, Lord J. G. Beresford, late Primate, presented (at the expense of the Vicars' Choral) to the Dean and Chapter for the use of the Cathedral a new organ, built by the celebrated Walker, of London, containing all the improvements of the day. This splendid gift enabled the Primate, in 1841, to have the old instrument put up in the concert room of the Tontine for the use of the members and friends of the "Armagh Musical Society," of which his Grace was patron. On the dissolution of this Society some time after, this instrument—the gift of Primate Robinson to the Dean and Chapter of Armagh—was sold to the Wesleyan Methodists of Belfast, where, by a strange fatality on the evening of its first performance, it was consumed by fire; *sic itur ad astra*.

According to an unpublished census of the city of Armagh, to which is annexed the religion and occupation of each individual, carefully made out for Primate Robinson in 1770, there were—Church families, 162; Presbyterians, 131; Roman Catholics, 209. Total, 502. Population in Market-Street, 174; English-Street, 75; Little Meeting-Street, 68; Big Meeting-Street, 108; Street leading to Common (Mall), 40; Abbey-Street, 141; Scotch-Street, 267; Church Lane, 53; Pound Hill (Vicars' Hill), 33; Callan-Street, 207; Castle-Street, 135; Mass Lane, 23; Irish-Street, 265; New-Street, 122; Charter School Lane, 108; Abbey Lane, 16; Lane off Irish-Street, 50. Total number, 1885.

It may not be out of place here to put on record the names of a few of the city officials, with their residence:

Market-Street, Thomas Johnstone, Gaoler; J. Richardson, Hearth Money Supervisor; T. Johnstone, Mathematician to Free School; Mr. Holland, ditto; T. Johnstone, Deputy Post Master; English-Street, Dr. Greuber, Master of Royal School; R. Crump, Usher to same; R. Sutton, Town Sergeant; Wm. Johnstone, Apparitor; Abbey-Street, E. Hand,

\* "A Sensuous wedge." See report of proceedings of the General Assembly: (Rev. J. B. Rentoul). 8th June, 1872.



Licensed School Master; Widow Barnes, Sextoness; Rev. W. Lodge, Rev. R. English, Josias Boucher, Vicar Choral; A. Shannon, breeches maker.

Pound Hill: J. Mosson, Proctor; R. Barnes, Organist; Thomas Crolly, Pound keeper; J. Rooks, old Dancing Master; Irish-Street, D. Brennan, Pump-maker; Scotch-Street, A. Burleigh, Weigh-Master; J. McCullagh, D. Registrar; New-Street, E. Justice, Verger; Tom Moorehead, Dancing Master; Charter School Lane, A. Ball, School Master; Lane off Irish-Street, R. Davison, grave-digger.

The houses in Armagh about the year 1765, with very few exceptions, were cottages thatched with rushes and straw, and were not contiguous. The citizens were obliged to go to the neighbouring village of Richhill to purchase groceries and decent clothing; and it is said that letters were transmitted through that village for the people of Armagh.

About the year 1772, the churches of Lisnadill, Grange, Camlough, and Newtownhamilton were built by Primate Robinson on lofty hills, commanding beautiful views of the country; thus reminding us of the song of the Psalmist, "Her foundations are upon the holy hills."

Nineteen years before Primate Robinson's arrival, the city of Armagh is thus described in Salmon's Gazetteer, "once a considerable city, now reduced to a small village."

Mr. John Davidson, M.R.I.A., in his "Notices, Historical and Typographical," informs us that Primate Robinson appropriated a certain sum which was further augmented by subscriptions from the Dean and Chapter to the repairs of the Cathedral. In 1766 he slated the Nave, and fitted it up for the celebration of Divine Service. In 1782, writes the same gentleman, Primate Robinson had determined to build a tower to the Cathedral of Armagh similar to that of Magdalen College, Oxford; but when the tower, which was to have been elevated 101 feet in height, had been raised 60 feet above the roof of the Church, symptoms of giving way, by an over pressure appeared in the lower portion.

Precautions were instantly taken, and after due deliberation the Primate was induced by the fears of some old ladies, whose alarms prevented them from continuing to attend Divine Service—to order the new tower to be pulled down even to the roof of the building, from whence it sprang.

In 1784, this munificent prelate gave directions to have the tower rebuilt as nearly as possible like the original, with the exception of having two windows instead of one, on each side of the tower. The four arches which support the tower were at the same time almost built up and reduced so much that they measured probably not more than twelve feet high, by eight feet wide. The space under the tower, around which was a gallery, formed the entrances to the East (Parish Church) and West ends of the Cathedral, as well as to the Bishop's Court in the South transept. A winding stairs on the South-West side led to the organ loft and gallery for the Choir.

The death of this Primate prevented him carrying into execution the erection of a grand tower at the West end of the church. The inhabitants of Armagh have not done justice to the memory of their great benefactor. He found their city a nest of mud and wattle cottages, and he left it adorned with public buildings of great architectural beauty. He distributed upwards of £40,000 in these and other noble works without the remotest idea to the present or future interest of himself or family, and has left unfading monuments of virtue, benevolence, and patriotism. Under his will, dated 7th April, 1795, a sum of £1,000, late Irish currency, was bequeathed to the trustees of First Fruits, to be applied upon certain trusts for the building of glebes in the Diocese of Armagh; £1,000 to assist in building a Chapel of Ease, with an acre of ground for its site, between the barracks and the Royal School; £1,000 to the County Infirmary; to the Corporation of Armagh, £200, in trust, that they may advance a sum of money on a proper security to any tradesman or artificer that will engage to settle in the city of Armagh on the expiration of their apprenticeships; £200 to the charitable loan of Armagh, and £200 to the Dean for the poor

of the parish. "I give and bequeath," said he "to the governors and guardians of the Armagh Library £5,000 in trust, to be disposed of by them at their discretion for the use of another University which may be hereafter established in Ulster, provided that the incorporation of such an University shall be completed in five years after my decease," and lastly, "I desire my remains to be deposited in the Cathedral Church of Armagh, as that city has been the principal place of my residence since my advancement to the primacy; and the inhabitants have been witnesses to the regular exertions of my mind for a succession of years in promoting a variety of public works for the future benefit and improvement of that ancient city, in which the Christian religion was first preached in Ireland."

With regard to the erection of an "University" there appears a correspondence between the Rev. J. A. Hamilton and Lord Cornwallis, in the "Memoirs and correspondence of Viscount Castlereagh:"

"Armagh, 24 Aug., 1798.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

Impressed, as I am, with a full confidence of your Excellency's abilities, talents and public spirit, I feel an apology necessary for approaching you on a subject of business intimately connected with your supposed beneficent intentions with regard to this kingdom, and the duties of your high station. As one of the executors of that truly wise man and enlightened Prelate—the late Primate Robinson—I humbly request to inform you that that great character thought nothing would tend so much to conciliate and soften down the minds of our various sectaries in the North of Ireland, and bind them to the common interests of the empire, as the "foundation of a second University in the province of Ulster." His own munificent labours at Armagh have pointed out that place for the seat of this university, inasmuch as a college or seminary of education already flourishes under an eminent gentleman at Armagh. We have a great endowed public Library, and also a well endowed Observatory, and Museum for astronomy and natural philosophy, at which I have the honour to preside. There is also bequeathed, £1,000 for a Chapel which would answer for the college, and £5,000 to erect the buildings.

In the present anxious state of the public mind and your Excellency's more urgent and important cares, I would not think of pressing this business forward to your notice, but that I believe those statesmen who should more properly approach you on these subjects are too much engaged with the weighty affairs of the day to be at leisure for the concerns of quieter times; and I am to tell you that if the body of the University is not incorporated within a little more than one year, the legacy of £5,000 will lapse. I therefore only throw out these hints to your Excellency—ready at any time, should you at any time require it—to give full information of all local circumstances that might lead to the completion of this great National object.

With all possible consideration and respect, &c., I am, &c.,

"JAMES HAMILTON."\*

The terms of the will, "provided it be done within five years after decease" not being complied with, the money was appropriated by Archdeacon Friend.

A "bust" in the Cathedral, erected by his nephew perpetuates the memory of Richard Robinson, the restorer of Armagh. If we except the case of Sir Hans Sloane, the founder of the British Museum, there can scarcely be found a parallel to equal this ingratitude of the people of Armagh.

Non illo melior quisquam, nec amantior æqui vir fuit—

A better man or one more just  
There never was, in any trust.

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\* The Very Rev. James Hamilton, D.D., afterwards Dean of Cloyne, was appointed the first Principal Astronomer of the Armagh Observatory by the Founder.



Sir Hans Sloane, an Irishman, freely bequeathed to the nation 200 volumes of plants, 30,000 minerals and other specimens of great value in natural history, with his library of 50,000 carefully selected volumes, and 3,566 rare manuscripts, besides his 30 years income to English charities. And yet in that Museum, founded by his sagacity and enriched by his labours, there stands no marble statue of the noble man! A picture or two are his only memorials.—*Sic transit gloria mundi*.

We are unfortunately deprived of the only means of ascertaining anything of the internal arrangements and government of Armagh previous to the year 1731, as all authentic documents and records were either lost or destroyed during the great wars of 1598 and 1641 and the revolution of 1688, when the soldiers of James II. and adherents of William III. in turn had possession of the city. We are, however, much indebted to the late Leonard Dobbin, Esq., for presenting to the public library the original book of proceedings of the "Sovereign and Grand Jury" of Armagh, from January 19, 1731 to 1823. This old record not only preserves the names of the principal inhabitants and trades-people, but also gives us the gradual changes and improvements that were introduced during that period. The large sums of money expended from year to year in repairing and sinking pumps, cleansing and sinking wells, flagging, paving, making sewers, channels, and putting up lamp-posts, would lead us to the inevitable conclusion that the worthy citizens then, for the first time, experienced the luxury of having clean streets and flagged pathways. We shall give one extract from the book in reference to that useful and domestic animal, "Swine," as we must feel indebted to the determination of our predecessors in having driven back to their settlements this unfortunate race, who it appears had hitherto waged war against well paved streets in this ancient city.

"April 20, 1724, whereas a former presentment made in the corporation, the Grand Jury presented any person in 6s. 8d, that kept swine out of a sty, so as to injure their neighbours; and whereas several persons suffer their swine to run through the streets and even to damnify their neighbours gardens; we therefore present 13s. 4d. to be levied off each person keeping swine or pigs out of a sty from this day forward."

To see now-a-days, a fat *poreus* rolling and enjoying himself in our fashionable thoroughfares and squares would, indeed, be a *rara avis*, and afford *rare* sport for the arabs of our city.

### THE MOYRE PASS.

THIS is the name of an old road extending across the townland of Carrickbroad, parish of Killeavy, Barony of Orier, and County of Armagh, about 300 paces from the boundary of the Counties of Louth and Armagh. In the time of Queen Elizabeth, we read that, from the Moyre Pass, as the entry to that valley is called, which lies under Slieve Gullion, and through which the line of railway, after leaving Dundalk, enters the Fews, Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, retreated to the Blackwater, near Armagh. The ruins of a small castle are still to be seen here on the North of the pass.

Fynes Moryson (the traveller, and Lord Deputy Mountjoy's secretary), who gives a minute account of the expedition of Mountjoy into Ulster, calls this place *Ballinemoyre*, and describes it as between Dundalk and Newry.

On an old map of Ulster, preserved in the State Papers' Office, London, the fortifications erected by Lord Mountjoy (on this occasion) are marked under the name of "The Castle and Fort of the Moierie Pace," and part of the road "the causie of Moierie." The castle was standing in good preservation in 1834 when Dr. O'Donovan examined this locality with great care. The road is now called *Bother a Mhaighre*, and is still traceable at Jonesborough, near the boundary between the Counties of Louth and Armagh. A little to the South of the railway may be seen the castle built by Lord Mountjoy in 1601 to secure the pass.



Cox, in his history of Ireland, vol. 1, p. 407, states that the Deputy (leaving a garrison at Armagh), on the 3rd July, 1594, marched nine miles towards the Newry; but being supplied with victuals, he returned to Armagh on 5th, and marched to Monaghan on 7th, and afterwards to the Pace of the Moyre, and so to Dundalk and Dublin.

The first record of Ballinamoyree made in Fynes Moryson's *Itinerary* is under Anno 1599, lib. 1, p. 34, where he writes—"And to the same end Tyrone had made strong fastnesses or intrenchments, as well upon the passages of Lough Foyle, and Ballyshannon (where he left forces to resist the English garrisons to be sent thither) as at the Blackwater and *Ballinamoyree*, between Dundalk and the Newry, where he hoped to make some of the best to drop, and after to fall back at his pleasure to like fights of advantage, which he had prepared at the Blackwater."

#### THE FIGHT AT THE MOYRE (BEALACH NA MHAIGHRE), ANNO 1600.

On the 5th May, writes Moryson, the Lord Deputy drew into the North parts, to make Tyrone look towards him, and so to give better facility to our men to settle themselves in garrison at Lough Foyle. But before his departure from Dublin, for the better governing and defending the Pale, his lordship did by commission leave Sir H. Poore to command in all martial affairs. And staying some few days at Tredagh, for the companies which had victualled Philipstown, and for the garrisons of Kells and Ardee, as also for victuals, he marched to Dundalk, whence, taking that garrison also with him, he passed the *Pace of the Moyre* on Whit Sunday morning, and so came to the Newry, where he understood that, according to his opinion, Tyrone, turning his forces from Lough Foyle, was come in great haste to Dungannon, had razed the old Fort of Blackwater, burned Armagh, and had drawn his men into the strong fastness of Loughlurken (now Loughlurgan) where with great industrie the rebels had made trenches and fortified the place some three miles in length. His lordship to the former end advancing towards him, on the 16th May, drew out of the Newry, and encamped in the way towards Armagh with 1,500 foot, and some 200 horse. And there having notice that the rebels enquired after the time when the Earl of Southampton, Sir Oliver Lambert, and Sergeant-Major were to come to the army, and withall hearing that the said Earl and Sergeant-Major were that day arrived at Dundalk, his lordship, early in the morning of the 17th May, sent Capt. Edward Blayney with 500 foot and 50 horse to secure their passage through the Pace of the Moyre, who marched from the camp, and so through the Moyre to the Faghart, from which hill to Dundalk there was no danger. There he made a stand, and, leaving his foot in two squadrons of 250 each, himself with the horse passed to Dundalk, and told the earl of the forces the Lord Deputy had sent to conduct him, assuring him further that his lordship, with the rest of the army, would meet him by two of the clock in the afternoon, at the causey beyond the pace, from which the whole pace hath the name of the Moyre. Hereupon the Earl, having with him, besides this convoy, the foot companies of Sir Oliver Lambert and Sir Henry Follyot, and some 50 horses of voluntary gentlemen, marched to the Faghart, where he commanded one of the two squadrons above mentioned to march on, and after that the carriages; then his lordship with the horse followed, after whom the second squadron marched, and, last of all, the two foot companies of Sir Oliver Lambert and Sir Henry Follyot. Captain Blayney, commanding the vanguard, advanced to the Four-milewater, being a ford all environed with woods, in the midst of this dangerous pace called the Moyre. And, coming within half-a-mile of the same, they discovered the rebels on both sides in the wood, whereupon the Earl directed the vanguard to pass over the water and to make good the rising of the hill beyond it. When these became within a musket shot they perceived 200 foot of the enemy lodged beyond the water in the most advantageous places. Then Captain Blayney divided his men into three maniples, sending sixty on the

right hand under Captain H. Atherton, and as many on the left hand under Captain Williams, his lieutenant, and keeping the rest in the midst with himself. And so by the Serjeant-Major's directions they gave the charge. In the meantime, the Lord Deputy being on the hill beyond the pace, had sent his vanguard, consisting of two regiments, the one under Sir Charles Percy, and the other under Sir Richard Moryson (two colonels of the army), to advance towards the pace. And at this instant, when Captain Blayney gave on upon the rebels, the said Lord Deputy's vanguard appeared on the left side, within two musket shot. After some volleys on either side, the rebels on the right hand and those right before Captain Blayney quitted those places, and retired through the woods to the Earl of Southampton's rear, so as Captain Blayney, passing the water, made a stand there as he was appointed to do, till the carriage and horses should be passed. And now the Lord Deputy's vanguard, being come to the passage of the said water, maintained a resolute skirmish with the rebels on the left hand, and altogether secured the Earl's troops on that side. The rebels, thus beaten on both sides, left some 100 shots to skirmish with the Lord Deputy's vanguard, and all retired to the Earl of Southampton's rear, and came desperately on our men both with horse and foot. But Sir Henry Follyot made a very good stand; and Sir Oliver Lambert, fearing lest our men should be distressed, the more to encourage them, took his colours in his own hand, and together with some thirty of the Earl of Southampton's vanguard's best men, sent back to the rear, hastened towards the assailants to second the Earl, who at that time with some six horse did charge the assailing rebels and beat them a musket shot back, still pursuing them, till they, having spent their powder, and thrown their staves, darts, and innumerable stones, recovered the place, where Tyrone stood himself with some 220 horse and 200 foot in sight (besides a far greater number hid in the woods) which never came into this sight. When our men had thus gained much ground, the Earl commanded them to march towards the army, and presently Sir Richard Wingfield, the Marshall of the army of Ireland, came to them with order from the Lord Deputy that since the repulsed rebels were not like to give any second charge, they should continue their march, following his lordship's troops directly to the Newry. In this conflict 20 of our men were slain, Captain Atherton and Master Cheut were shot, and some few hurt with swords and such weapons. On the rebels' side there were in all 1,200 foot thus advantageously lodged and 220 horse; and Tyrone himself confessed that ten of his men died with over-travelling in this hasty march, besides such as were killed, whose number could not certainly be learned.

The Lord Deputy, hearing on the 28th of May that Tyrone had drawn back his men two miles further into the fastness, and being informed that the Pace of the Moyre, by reason of much wet lately fallen and the rebels breaking off the causey, was hard to pass, returned by Carlingford Pace to Dundalk, and so to Dublin, where he understood that the rebels had in his absence burned the Pale, though he left for defence of it 2,000 foot and 175 horse in Leinster; but the damage was not answerable to the clamour, for many private men have in England sustained greater loss by casual fire in time of peace than the whole Pale had done by the enemys' burning in war, and many private men in England have in one year lost more cattle by the rot than the Pale lost by this spoyleing of the rebels of which they lamentably complained. Besides that indeed this burning and spoyleing of the very Pale did further the greatest end of finishing the wars, no way so likely to be brought to an end as by a general famine.

On the 14th September, 1600, the same author states that the Lord Deputy began another journey into the North, and on the 15th encamped at the hill of Faghard, three miles beyond the Dundalk, and there his lordship lay till the 9th of October, in such extremities of weather as would have hindred his passage, if the enemy had not withstood him, his lordship's tent being continually wet, and often blown down. Before his lordship



came, Tyrone with his uttermost strength had possessed the Moyre, being a strong fastness as any of the rebels had, but his lordship resolved to march over him if he stopped his way, and make him know that his kerne could not keep the fortifications against the Queen's forces. Many skirmishes fell out happily to us, and two several days the enemy were beaten out of their trenches with great loss, till at last, upon the 8th day of October, they left the passage clear.

Then, after the army was a few days refreshed at Dundalk, his lordship marched the 21st day of October to the Newry, passing through the Moyre, where he caused all the rebels' trenches to be laid flat to the ground, and the woods to be cut down on both sides of the place.

Cox gives a more descriptive account of this affair (vol. 1, p. 428). The Lord Lieutenant returned to Dublin Aug. 26, and on September 14th began another journey into the North. On 20th he encamped at Faghard, where his army being mustered, were in list 4,150, but by poll, 2,400 foot and 300 horse. He was by extremity of weather detained there till the 1st of October.

In the meantime O'Neill had possessed himself of the Pass of the Moyre, but on the 2nd and 5th of October the English skirmished so successfully with them, that on the 9th they quitted the fastness; whereupon Mountjoy cut down the woods on both sides, and having refreshed his army at Dundalk, on 21st of October he marched to the Newry, where for want of victuals he stayed till the 2nd of November.

Under 14th May, 1601, we have it recorded that the army dislodged from the Faughard, and leaving the Moyre fort defensible, with wardens to guard it, and the workmen, being to build a tower or keep of stone, they marched eight miles, and encamped at Carrickbane, a little Northward of the Newry. In 1602, the Lord Deputy arrived in the North, before the general hosting for the year could be in readiness, and cleared and assured the passage of the Moyre, by cutting down most part of the woods and building a fort there. From thence he went to Armagh, where he placed a garrison.

From this time we read of nothing remarkable of this place until the submission of Tyrone and subjugation of the rebels, which rendered this fortress no longer necessary for the English interests. And so, after the settlement of Ulster in the reign of James I., this castle was permitted to crumble to ruins.

This Pass, according to Cambden, is by nature the most difficult in Ireland, and besides, the rebels had with great art and industry obstructed it by fences, stakes, hurdles, stones, and clods of earth, as it lies between the hills, woods, and bogs on both sides, and had also lined it with soldiers. Moreover, the weather was very bad, and the great rains which had fallen for some days together had made the rivers overflow, and to be impassable. As soon as the waters fell, the English opened their way through this passage and the fences with great courage; and notwithstanding all the difficulties they had to encounter, they beat back the enemy, and marched towards Armagh.

The castle—standing on a solid rock, with four square sides, and about forty yards in circumference—is partially in ruins. The ground floor contains nine portholes of rather small dimensions, and the second landing about the same number. From its eminence or high position it commands a long range of the Pass, or old road, between Dublin and Belfast. At this peculiar spot, it is said, frequent robberies and murders were committed—the place being solitary, and buried on either side by large shelving mountains. In the grounds adjoining the castle numerous small leaden balls are found, as if a great battle was fought around it.

The Rev. Dr. Davis, in his diary of "King William's progress to the Boyne (A.D., 1690)" writes:—"June 26th. In the morning we decamped, and, going over Pains Pass, we came to Newry, and passing the bridge, pitched our tents on a hill beyond the



town. The king lay in a small tent by us, being well assured that our way was open to Dundalk.

"27th. We marched from Newry over the Pass at Moyre, where the enemy, if they had any spirit, might easily have stopt us for some time. About ten of the clock we saw Dundalk, and passing the river near Bedlow Castle, and going over the ground of the last encampment, we pitched, a mile beyond the town, on the same ground where King James lay last year. Even now, with the advantage derived from the clear state of the country, Moyre Pass might be stiffly contested. The ground at both sides slopes gradually, leaving the Pass narrow, and in the centre stands the abrupt crag, bearing the broken tower erected by Lord Mountjoy, as a stronghold against the Ulster Irish, in 1600."

With regard to the maintenance of this place, we find from an entry of the Patent Rolls, A.D. 1606—James I., that the following places were set apart for its support:—The townes, landes, woodes, &c., of Carrickbradagh, Drummad, Oghilloutragh, Oghillstraght, Dromenty, and a parcel of the Feede, situate nigh to the N. and West parts of the Mountaine of the Feede in the County Ardmagh; which lands are thus bounded, viz.,—From the river called the Flower mill-water, untill to, and soe by the top of the Mountain of the Feede, untill the river Killmasagart, nigh the castle of and in the Moyre in said County; all which were assigned for the better maintenance of the Fort, Castle, and Warde of the Moyre.

A Commission having been issued by the Lord Deputy Chichester, with the assent of Sir Oghey O'Hanlon, Knt., for allotting a certain quantitie of land unto the said Fort and Castle for the better maintenance and securitie thereof, without power of allineation, &c., &c.,

### CAPTAIN WILLIAMS AND THE BLACKWATER FORT.

THE rebellion of 1598 had long been foreseen by English statesmen; yet so great was the Queen's aversion to the enormous charge attending the ordinary government of Ireland, that her ministers shrank from urging upon her the additional outlay requisite for any considerable increase in her army. As early as April, 1594, Sir George Carew had, from his lodgings "in the Minories," written a long letter to Cecil to prove, not that rebellion was imminent, but how a rebellion, to be successful, ought to be, and, no doubt would be conducted. His opinion of O'Neill was this—"Tyrone having had his education in our discipline, and naturally valiant, is absolutely and worthily reputed the best man of war of his nation. The most part of his followers are well trained soldiers, using our weapons, and himself the greatest man of territory and revenue within the kingdom, and at this present, by reason of his great alliance, and, as well for friendship as fear, the absolute commander of all the North of Ireland." The warning of Carew met with little attention: some trifling supplies were sent to the army in Ireland; but when the rebellion broke out, the whole force there consisted of but 10,082 foot and 521 horse, of which number about one-third were mere Irish, "ready," to use the Queen's words, "to run away and join the enemy against her." In 1598 Sir Henry Russell succeeded Sir Wm. Fitzwilliams as Lord Deputy of Ireland, and "foreseeing a storm of war arising," applied for reinforcements and an experienced commander to be sent from England to his assistance. It was time! for the plans of O'Neill were ripe; he had assembled 1000 horse and 6,280 foot, not of the wild kerne of his own country, but of expert soldiers, who had been trained and exercised to their arms, and had already served in the wars of the Low Countries. No sooner did he hear of the coming of Sir John Norreys, with 1300 old soldiers, who had served in Bretagne, than he at once burst into rebellion, and seized the fort of Blackwater, which commanded the passage into the land of Tyrone.

However, on the arrival of Norreys, he was compelled to relinquish his prize; but not until he had wasted the surrounding country and burned the town of Dungannon and his own house in it. The army brought by the Lord Justice was very immense, for he had

with him Sir John Norris, the Queen's General in Ireland, and the Earl of Thomond, (Donough, son of Conor O'Brien), with all their forces. They never halted until they arrived at Newry, from whence they proceeded to Armagh. Here they resolved not to delay until they should reach the Abhainn-Mhor, or Blackwater, in the middle of Tyrone. On their march over the direct road from Armagh to this river, they beheld the fortified camp, and the strong battle array of the enemy under the O'Neill and O'Donnell; and when the English army perceived this, they remained where they were until the next day, when they returned back to Armagh. The Irish went in pursuit of them, and pitched their camp near them. They remained there face to face for the space of fifteen days, without any attack from either side; for the Lord Justice and his army were within the metropolitan church of Armagh, engaged in erecting towers and deepening the trenches around the town. At the expiration of this time, the Lord Justice left three companies of soldiers to defend Armagh, and he himself returned to Newry; and the Irish went in pursuit to the gate of Newry. In a week afterwards the Lord Justice set out with provisions to Monaghan, and from thence he proceeded with his army to Dublin, where, by proclamation, O'Neill was declared a traitor, by the name of Hugh O'Neill, and grand son of Matthew Tardareng,—i.e., the blacksmith. Jealousies broke out between Norreys and Russel: the former entered into a treaty with O'Neill, which led to a series of short truces, during which Russel was recalled, and Lord Borough, "a sharp witted man and full of courage," was appointed in his place. O'Neill had again possessed himself of the Fort of Blackwater, and the Deputy at once led a force to recover it. He succeeded, strengthened its fortifications, and returned to Dublin, having confided the commanding of it this time to a gallant officer of the name of Williams. Tyrone again led his companies to that Fort of evil omen, and the Deputy again marched to its relief. In midjourney he was stricken with sudden illness and died, leaving the army without a leader, and Ireland without a governor. The gallant Williams, though his small force was half famished, and sickness was amongst them, refused to surrender the Fort. The garrison had eaten their last horse, and were living upon the "grass that grew upon the bulwarks." O'Neill had surrounded the place on all sides, and swore "by his barbarous hand that as long as he could get a cow from the English Pale to feed his companies he would not leave it." Captain Williams proved himself a brave commander, and his half-famished garrison as well the "sicke as the whoole," had taught O'Neill what British soldiers could do when fighting in right of their prince. The Irish chieftain profitted by the lesson, and attempted no more assaults, but vigorously set about digging trenches around the fort, and thus cut off from Captain Williams the forlorn hope of future sallies, and the *capture of his enemy's mares*. These trenches are described as works of amazing magnitude—such as had never yet been seen in Irish warfare. They were more than a mile in length, several feet deep, "with a thorny hedge on the toppe," and connected with vast tracts of bog; every approach to the unhappy garrison was "plashed" (branches of trees partly cut off and bound to other branches) and rendered impassable for Artillery, as the English afterwards found to their heavy cost, and the Irish forces so distributed that a battle under every disadvantage must be fought by any army coming to relieve the Fort. Camden informs us that the state of Ireland was at this time very much out of order, for all Ulster, beyond Dundalk, except seven garrison castles, namely Newry, Knockfergus, Carlingford, Greencastle, Armagh, Dundrum, and Oldersfleet, and almost all Connaught, were revolted. If any man could have extricated the government from its miserable plight it would have been Ormond. Yet even he looked with dismay upon the unequal struggle before him. "The times," he wrote, "are more miserable than ever before. If our wants be not speedily supplied the whole kingdom will be overthrown. The garrisons everywhere at this moment are ready to starve. The soldiers run away daily, though I have hanged many of them in the maratime towns."

After much debating in the council, Captain Williams was permitted to make the best terms he could, and surrender the Fort; but the soldiers overruled the idea. Bagenall cried



shame upon the timidity which would bring dishonour upon the army, and insisted upon an instant march to re-victual the Fort, and drive O'Neill before its walls. And then was taken the fatal resolution of dividing the English forces into two bodies, one to march without delay to the Blackwater, and the other to proceed against the Cavanaghs. It was the wish of the council that Ormond himself should undertake to deal with O'Neill; but it chanced that Bagenall and O'Neill were bitter personal foes; O'Neill had married the marshal's sister, and out of that alliance had sprung a mutual feeling of deadly hate. Bagenall entreated Ormond to allow him to meet his enemy, and it was so decided.

The Countess of Tyrone did not live to witness the mortal struggle of her husband and brother. Her death took place in January, 1596, two years and a half before the "Jorney of the Blackwater."

### CAPTURE OF THE CASTLE AND GARRISON OF ARMAGH.

**P**REVIOUS to the battle of the Yellow Ford, Hugh O'Neill was the most powerful of all the Irish chiefs, and was besides a favourite of all the English court, where he had been for a considerable time. Though not tall, yet, he was powerfully made, and could endure the greatest fatigue. On his return to Ireland, he received the command of two regiments; these he was careful to instruct in the English mode of warfare, and according as they became sufficiently expert, he dismissed them to their houses and had their places supplied with others. He gave fire arms to the country people that they might become accustomed to their use, and by this means contrived to discipline his people and prepare them for the ulterior objects he had in view.

Under the pretext of building a castle at Dungannon, he obtained leave of the council to import sheet-lead from England. The lead thus procured was converted into bullets: and his secret *depots* in the North were plentifully supplied with provisions and warlike stores of every description. Whilst abiding his time to unfurl the standard of revolt, he displayed all the caution and skill of the most experienced commander. At length, in the year 1596, he suddenly marched to Armagh, cut off that fortress from communication with the other garrisons, and succeeded in forcing it to surrender before Sir John Norris could arrive to its relief. The capture is said to have been the result of a stratagem. A convoy of provision had been sent thither from Dundalk when Tyrone was approaching against it, and this was surprised by night by the Irish Chieftain, and its escort made prisoners. Tyrone ordered the English soldiers to be stript, and clothed an equal number of his own men in their uniforms, whom he posted in the ruins of a monastery on the Eastern side of the city (Franciscan Abbey in the Primate's demesne) under the command of Con O'Neill. At break of day, the Earl suddenly appeared with a large body of his men and attacked Con's party in the ruins. The English soldiers in the castle imagined that it was their convoy from Dundalk was attacked by the Irish, and one-half of the garrison was immediately sent out to their assistance. Hitherto, the sham combatants had only loaded their guns with blank cartridge, but when the soldiers of the garrison had reached the spot they were astounded at being attacked by both parties; and at the same moment the rest of the Irish forces, which had been concealed in the Abbey, come upon them in the rear. Thus surrounded, the English were all slaughtered, after which Armagh was surrendered, on condition that the remainder of its garrison under its commander, Francis Stafford, should be allowed to retire without interruption to Dundalk. I shall now, after the lapse of two years, give a short narrative of the

#### BATTLE OF THE YELLOW FORD.

The Following extract shows the date of battle.

"The Lords Justice to the Privy Council, 1598—August 14th. Ill newse out of Ireland. 12th of August, theye came from the Newry to Armagh. The 14th August, theye sete



forwardes towardes the 'Blackwater with 4,000 footmen and 350 horses."

Sir Henry Bagenall, Marshall of Ulster, with the rest of the Queen's forces, passed through Armagh in 1598, on his way to attack Hugh O'Neill, who was besieging the Fort on the Blackwater. When he (O'Neill), received intelligence of his approach, he sent messengers to O'Donnell, urging him to come to his assistance against this overwhelming force of foreigners. O'Donnell accordingly with all his warriors—both infantry and cavalry, and a strong body of forces from Connaught, advanced—eager to assist his ally. The Irish of all the province of Ulster also joined the same army, so that they were all prepared to meet the English before they arrived at Armagh. They dug up deep trenches against the enemy in the common road, over which they thought they (the English) would pass. The English forces after remaining a night at Armagh, rose early next morning, and determined to leave their victuals, drink, women and children, their horses, baggage and servants in the city. Orders were then given that every one able to be in arms, both horse and foot, should proceed in close order and array; in which manner they arrived at a hill which overlooked the ford of

Beal na atha bhuide *i.e.* Bellanaboy.

When the Marshall and his English forces saw the Irish warriors and champions of the north awaiting them, they advanced with vigour and crossed the first broad and deep trench that lay in their way. The Irish army, led by Tyrone and O'Donnell, poured down upon them vehemently, shouting in the rear and on every side of them. The van of the English was obliged to await the onset and withstand the firing, so that their close lines were thinned, "their gentlemen gapped," and their heroes subdued. But to sum up in brief—the general, when raising his helmet to take a view of the field, was struck by a musket ball on the forehead and fell lifeless on the ground. At the same time a fearful explosion took place among the Queen's troops, and a great number of the men who were around the powder were blown up. The whole English army in complete disorder fled in every direction.

Who has not heard, while Erin yet,  
Strove 'gainst the Saxon's iron bit,  
Who has not heard how brave O'Neill  
In English blood imbrued his steel.  
Against St. George's cross blazed high,  
The banners of his Tanistry,  
To fiery Essex gave the foil,  
And reigned a Prince in Ulster's soil?  
But chief arose his victor pride.  
When that brave Marshal fought and died,  
And Avon Duff to ocean bore  
Her billows red with Saxon gore.

"It may be curious to state," writes O'Curry, "that at the celebrated battle of *Bel an ather bhuidh*, fought by the great Hugh Roe O'Donnell, against the English in 1598, O'Donnell's poet, Ferfesa O'Clery, quoted the following verse from a prophecy of St. Berchan to show that he (O'Donnell), was the person foretold in it who would destroy the English power in Ireland; but this verse is not found in any of the Saint's prophecies. Indeed, I strongly incline to believe it was specially made for the occasion.—

"In the battle of the Yellow Ford,  
It is by him shall fall the tyrants;  
After extirpation of the foreigners,  
Joyful will be the men from Torry."

Mason and Cambden state that there fell with the Marshal, 13 captains, and 1500 common soldiers, many of whom had served in Brittany, under General Norris. But O'Sullivan, a

contemporary writer, asserts that 2500 of the Queen's soldiers, 23 superior officers, and a number of lieutenants, ensigns and sergeants were slain in the fight. 34 military standards, 1200 pieces of gold, all the musical instruments, artillery and provisions were captured by the victors. Of Tyrone's troops, 200 were slain and 600 wounded. The part of the Queen's army which escaped the slaughter went back to Armagh, eagerly pursued by the Irish, who continued "to slay them by pairs, threes, scores and thirties, until they passed within the walls of the city." The Irish then besieged the town, and surrounded it on every side. Both armies continued to fire at each other for three days and three nights; at the expiration of which the English ceased, and sent messengers to their opponents to say that they would surrender the fort at the Blackwater, if the wardens who were stationed in it were suffered to come unmolested to them to Armagh, and that on arriving there they would leave the city itself, if they should be granted quarter and escorted in safety out of that country into a safe territory. To these conditions the Irish agreed, and the captain and wardens came to Armagh to join that portion of the English who had survived the slaughter. They were all then escorted from Armagh to Newry, and from thence to the English territory. This battle of *Athbuidhe* was fought on 14th August, 1598, and the chiefs of Ulster returned to their respective homes in joyous triumph, although they lost many men.

The site of this battle *Beal an atha buidhe*, i.e., the mouth of the yellow ford, is indicated on an old map of the country, "lying between Lough Erne and Dundalk," preserved in the State Papers' Office, London, as on the *banks of the river Callan*, to the N. E. of the city of Armagh. The place is called Ballymackillown, and the following words are written across the spot—"Here Sir Henry Bagenall was slain." This undoubtedly is the spot, on the site of which Stuart, J. Curry, and others speculated so much. "Not far distant," writes Stuart, "from these ruins (Bishops' court, at Mullinure N. E. of the city) is the place which Speed calls Mackilloran, which is probably the site of Killotir Church, spoken of by O'Sullivan and other Irish writers. Speed, however, cannot be relied upon, as his maps are crowded with typographical errors, as in this instance, inserting Mackilloran for Mackilloune, and Kafin for Kalin (river). O'Donovan says, "the name of Ballinaboy is now applied to a small marsh or cut bog, situate in the townland of Cabra (goat land), about a mile and three-quarters to the north of the city of Armagh. A short distance to the north of this bog stands a white-thorn bush, locally called the "great man's thorn," which is said to have been planted near the grave of Marshall Bagenall. Captain Tucker, who surveyed this part of Ireland for the Ordnance Survey, has marked the site of this battle on the Ordnance map by two swords in saltire and the date 1598.

On the appointment of Lord Mountjoy to the office of Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1600, Tyrone returned in haste to Dungannon, and marching on with the hope of arresting Mountjoy's progress, he raised the old Fort of Blackwater, burnt Armagh, and distributed his men in the fastnesses of Lough Lurkin (or Lurgan, near Silver Bridge), where he threw up entrenchments, &c., constructed rude fortifications, a line of three miles in extent, on 24th June. The year following the Lord Deputy proceeded to Tyrone, and, after having re-built and garrisoned the Fort of Blackwater, he drew off his army and returned to Armagh, where he received despatches from the court of England.

To such extremities was O'Neill reduced after the defeat of the insurgents in the South of Ireland, that on the 6th April, 1603, he renewed his submission to King James I. in the same terms as he made to Queen Elizabeth, and at the same time he wrote a letter to the King of Spain, acquainting him with his submission, requesting him to send back his son Henry, who had been for some time resident at the Spanish court. The Lord Deputy gave him a new protection to serve till he had sued out his pardon; and he was sent back to his own country to "settle the same, and to keep his friends and former confederates in better order." Thus was the great rebellion, which, tormenting the latter years of Queen Elizabeth, had called for an unexampled expenditure of English money and blood; while it agitated



every part of Ireland and reduced its finest provinces to a desert, brought at length to a close. Moryson estimates the expenditure from 10th October, 1598, to the last of March, 1603, exclusive of extraordinaries, at no less than, £1,198,718. The year previous, Lord Mountjoy built the Forts of Charlemont, Mountjoy, with several smaller castles.

After the war of Elizabeth, Roderick O'Donnell, going into England with Lord Mountjoy, was created Earl of Tyrconnell; but, in 1607, he was deprived thereof, on which occasion he and O'Neill, after having in vain attempted a fresh insurrection, fled on the 14th Sept. to the continent, never to return, leaving their lands and estates to forfeiture and confiscation. Thus it happened that the project, called the Plantation of Ulster, was carried into effect, by which James I. was enabled to divide among English and Scottish settlers 800,000 acres, the ancient territories of the O'Neill's, O'Donnell's, O'Reilly's, Maguire's, and other chiefs in Tyrone, Derry, Donegal, Fermanagh, Cavan and Armagh.

The sudden flight of the two Earls filled Ireland with astonishment, and caused an extraordinary sensation throughout Catholic Europe. O'Donnell died shortly after he reached Rome in 1608, but O'Neill dragged on a painful and miserable existence, and died blind and broken down with his guilt and misfortunes, on July 16, 1616.

### SITE OF THE BATTLE OF BELLANABOY, OR YELLOW FORD.

THE Site of the Battle of the Yellow Ford, as pointed out by local tradition and authenticated by men well versed in Irish history, admits of some debate, and I shall endeavour to prove that the spot so long recognized as the place where the English commander, Sir Henry Bagenall fell was not at Cabragh, in the Parish of Grange, but at a place near Bagenall's Bridge (called after the general), separating the Townlands of Drumeullen and Tirgarve, and on the direct road to the fort erected on the Blackwater, where the English General was proceeding to meet the rebel, Hugh O'Neill. In thus attempting to remove landmarks made by chroniclers and historians, as well as to doubt local tradition, the writer subjects himself to criticism; but he trusts that in pursuing this bold course it will eventually lead to an examination of facts which may decide the uncertainty that prevails not only as to the proper site of the battle of the "Yellow Ford," but other interesting places in and around this ancient city.

In the annals of the Four Masters, Dr. O'Donovan, under 1598, has the following note—"The site of this battle is shewn on an old map of the country lying between Lough Erne and Dundalk, preserved in the State Papers Office, London, as on the banks of the river Callan, to the north-east of the City of Armagh, the place is called Ballymackilloune, and the following words are written across the spot:—

'Here Sir H. Bagenall, Marshall of Newry, was slain.'

The name of Beal an atha buidhe—*anglice*, Bellanaboy—is now applied to a small marsh or cut out bog, situated in the townland of Cabragh, about one mile and three-quarters to the north of the city of Armagh. Captain Tucker, R.E., who surveyed this part of Ireland for the ordnance survey, has marked the site of this battle on the Ordnance Map by two swords *in saltier*, and the date 1598."

"A little to the north of this 'small marsh,' nearly opposite Watt's cottage, a white thorn bush is (*gravely*) pointed out as the spot where Sir Henry Bagenall was buried and called 'The great man's thorn.'"

Sir Henry Bagenall was not buried here, for according to the accounts given by "Colonel Byllinges, F. Feteplace and Captain Hawes in the Journey of the Blackwater": taken from the State Papers of Queen Elizabeth—in the retreat of the army to Armagh, they "garded the deade bodye of the Marshall," to Armagh.



In 1872, when removing some earth from the South transept of the Armagh Cathedral for the purpose of laying new seats, several skulls were raised, in one of which was discovered a hole in the forehead, such as would be made by a large bullet, and answering the description—"and in his goinge downe he was slayne with a shott throwth his forehead." As O'Neill and the Marshall were at enmity, 'tis very probable that the Earl would not comply with the petition to have the body removed to St. Patrick's, Newry, and thus the remains of Sir Henry rest with us in the Armagh Cathedral.

On the 16th Aug., two days after the battle, Mar: Whitechurch, Liefetenant of the Marshall's horse troop and John Lee, Secretary to the Marshall, went to the Chaunter of Armagh who was then at the Newry to "entreate hym, yf he cold, to use som means for the obteyning of leve from th' archtrytor Tirone to bringe the deade corpes of the Marshall, Sir Henry Bagnall from Armagh (where yt then was) unto Newrie, wch the Chaunter promised us he wold doe his best to performe; but he wold go himself unto Tirone about it."

Now to determine accurately the site of this *cabhan a cath* (or Field of Fight), it will be necessary to examine the relative positions of the contending armies, and trace their movements until they meet in deadly array on the field of battle. It will then be seen that the correctness of identifying the "small marsh" or triangular field in Cabragh (goat land) as the place where Sir Henry Bagenall was killed, admits of strong doubts, both from its being a great distance from the rivers Blackwater and Callan, as well as not being in the direct road to the "New Fort" on the Blackwater, where the English General with his army were marching to meet the O'Neill, who was then laying siege to that garrison.

On the way from Armagh to this fortress (which according to Moryson was only a deep trench or wall of earth to lodge one hundred soldiers) within a *short distance* of the rivers Callan and Blackwater, lies a spot in the townland of Drumeullen which the tradition of the place points out where Sir Henry Bagenall fell. Several bullets and other implements of war are said to have been found in the locality. The fact of a bridge, too, being called after the General gives strength to the belief that this place has superior claims to Cabragh, which is in another direction, and, in fact, leading to the unhistoric village of Loughgall.

Mr. M'Keough, who resides close to this bridge, informed the writer, in presence of many of his neighbours, who concurred with him, that about 30 years ago he saw several large sepulchral mounds—in the levelling of which many human bones—gun bullets and other materials of war were discovered. It is also the common impression that as the Earl of Tyrone took possession of the common road or "highway," which was terribly trencched up as hereafter described, the English soldiers retreated to Armagh by *Cabragh* through a lane which still retains the name of the "bloody loaning." The great slaughter which took place here very probably gave rise to the idea entertained by many as the site of the Battle of Bellanaboy, and Captain Tucker in turn stereotyped the tradition on the Ordnance Survey Maps.

The site of this battle is also fixed by Moryson, where he writes—Anno 1601, lib. 2, cap. 1, p. 111—"On the 23rd day, his Lordship making a show to draw from his camp beyond Armagh towards Blackwater, caused his forces to make a stand for his retreat, and so himself, with his followers and servants, rode more than a mile forward, to *view the way to Blackwater Fort, and the place of the famous Blackwater defeat, under the Marshall Bagenall's* conduct, and having passed a pace without one shot made at his troop, he returned to his forces, and marching back he left a garrison of 750 foot and 100 horse, at the Abbey of Armagh, under the command of Sir Henry Dawers, and that night marched with the rest near to Mountnorris, where he encamped, having in this march from Armagh, viewed the Ford where General Norreys formerly was hurt, making a stand with his horse to secure his foot, distressed by Tyrone's charge.

There was very probably a battle fought near Cabra, which may have given some foundation to the story, as appears from Moryson's itinerary under 3rd August, 1600:—"We

rose, and having marched three miles back, we encamped between the paces and Armagh, —a little beyond Armagh, towards the north, that we might have better grass for the horses, and all the way we marched the rebels in their fortresses drew down close by and followed us all the way, being strong. The fourth day some companies were drawn out to cut the pace of Armagh, and the rebels being in sight, offered not to skirmish with them; but towards night they drew down strong out of the woods to an hill, under which we lay encamped in a fair meadow. They came with cries and sound of drums and bagpipes, as if they would attempt the camp, and poured into it some two or three thousand shot, hurting only two of our men. But his lordship commanding that none in the camp should stir, had lodged in a trench some 400 shot, charging them not to shoot till the rebels approached near. And after these, our men had given them a volley in their teeth, they drew away and we heard no more of their drums or bagpipes, but only mournful cries: for many of their best men were slain. The next morning we found some dead bodies at the skirt of the wood, and three shattered pieces."

Let us now review the history of the whole transaction and return a true verdict according to the evidence.

Blackwatertown is situated on the old road from Armagh to Dungannon, and on the river Blackwater, from which it takes its name. During the rebellion of the Earl of Tyrone, in the reign of Elizabeth, an English garrison called "New Fort" was placed here to check the incursions of that chieftain, who under a plea of some injuries done to his party by the English, in 1595 attacked and expelled the garrison and obtained possession of the fortress, which he subsequently destroyed and abandoned on the approach of Sir John Morris. In 1593 the Earl covenanted to rebuild it, and to supply an English garrison to be then stationed in it with all necessaries, as one of the conditions upon which peace was granted to him by Elizabeth the Queen. In the following year the English forces, under Lord Deputy Borough, assaulted the place and easily took possession; but the insurgents soon reappeared and commenced an attack; and though the further progress of the war was prevented by the death of the General, yet a strong English garrison was stationed here as a frontier post. Tyrone was once more compelled to agree to repair the fort and bridge, and to supply the garrison, but he shortly after attacked the former with the greatest vigour; and as the works were probably weak and imperfect, the assailants were repulsed only by the determined valour of the garrison. The Earl afterwards attempted to reduce it by famine; and the besieged were driven to the last extremities, when Sir Henry Bagenall, with an English army of about 4,000 infantry and 600 cavalry, marched to their relief with a large quantity of provisions. Marching through Drogheda, Dundalk, and Newry—they at length arrived at Armagh where they remained all night. When O'Neill, who was besieging the Fort on the Blackwater, had received intelligence that this great army was approaching him, he sent messengers to O'Donnell, urging him to come to his assistance. O'Donnell proceeded immediately with all his warriors, and a strong body of forces from Connaught to assist his ally against those who were marching against him. The Irish of the province of Ulster also joined the same army, so that they were all prepared to meet the English before their arrival at Armagh. They then dug deep trenches against the English in the common road, by which they thought they (the English) would go to meet them. (Where?)

After remaining a night in Armagh, the English rose next morning early, formed into order and proceeded straight forward in solid bodies, till they came to the hill which overlooks the ford of Beal an atha buidhe—*i.e.* the mouth of the Yellow Ford.

O'Sullivan states that the English Army passed unmolested from Armagh over a level and open tract of ground. About 7 o'clock they entered a narrow pass where trees and thickets were thinly scattered over the surface of the ground. Here O'Neill had stationed



500 active and lightly armed youths, who, protected by the trees, poured in volumes of shot upon the British troops. In this desultory warfare, Bagenall's army experienced considerable loss, yet he succeeded in forcing his way till he arrived at a large plain which extended to Tyrone's camp. Bagenall was repeatedly arrested in his progress, but at eleven o'clock arrived at a short distance of Tyrone's camp, within about *three miles of Armagh*.

It is unnecessary to state that the Queen's soldiers suffered a heavy defeat, and from the preceding accounts we may infer that the site of the battle lay between Armagh and the Fort on the Blackwater, within a short distance of Blackwatertown.

The battle is thus described in the "Montgomery Manuscripts," edited by Rev. John Hill—Belfast, 1869. "The victory of Hugh O'Neill over the English at the *Blackwater*."

The Fortress was immediately surrendered to the enemy, and the English soldiers then were, by mutual condition, permitted to return to Armagh; the Fort, however, was soon afterwards recovered. Opposite to the town (Blackwater) are vestiges of a Fort, by some called the Blackwater Fort—in the attempt to relieve the garrison of which Sir Henry Bagenall lost his life; and others, less informed—supposed to have been the strong fortress of Hugh, Earl of Tyrone, and one of those for which he stipulated when he obtained a patent of Favour from Queen Elizabeth. Now the chief mansion of the Earl of Tyrone was not at this place, but at Dungannon, and had a strong fort. To prevent confounding the garrisons of Blackwater and Charlemont, I may mention that the latter was erected by Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy, Deputy of Ireland, in the year 1602, as a curb on the Earl of Tyrone.

#### SIR HENRY BAGENALL'S MARCH TO THE YELLOW FORD.

HAVING in a previous paper corrected an old historical error in relation to the long lost site of the Battle of Ballinaboy, where Sir Henry Bagenall was defeated and slain in the good old days of Elizabeth our Queen, I shall now endeavour to trace more minutely the old road from Armagh, over which the Queen's troops marched to meet the Earl of Tyrone.

There were several roads in the sixteenth century leading from the city of Armagh to the site of the battle of the Yellow Ford, the Blackwater Fort, and Dungannon.

After having enjoyed a personal inspection of the *route*, as well as from a careful perusal of the various works which have been written on this interesting subject, including "The Annals of the Four Masters," "O'Sullivan's *Historiæ Hiberniæ*," "Moryson's *Itinerary*," and the "Jorney of the Blackwater," I can, with some degree of confidence, affirm that Sir Henry Bagenall and the English army, when marching from Armagh to meet Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, at the Blackwater, proceeded a little Northward by the East, or Armagh side of what is called the "Yellow Ford" on the River Callan.

Thus, starting from Armagh at 7 o'clock, on the morning of Monday, 14th August, 1598, Sir Henry Bagenall, having previously ascertained that the enemy had possession of the main or chief road leading to Portmore or Blackwater Fort, advisedly directed his march a little Northward, or, as the State Papers of Queen Elizabeth say, "a myle on the right-hand side of the common highway."

It may be easily imagined how difficult a task it was, at this time, to carry heavy guns, mounted on springless vehicles or waggons, composed of the strongest materials, tumbling and tossing over very high and narrow roads, with ruts deep enough to fracture the leg of a horse, filled to the brim with standing pools of rain-water. This was a trial of some skill both for the horse and the driver.

The wheels too were very broad and solid, to make them suitable for the bad roads; and the traces were usually made of rope. There existed yet another serious impediment to bring up the army *in a body*; there were then constructed no bridges, and so the artillery and



horse were obliged to cross the Ford through the river; thus losing much valuable time which, in the present instance, was the chief cause of turning the scale of victory into the hands of Hugh O'Neill, who was quite prepared for the adventure.

Having passed the site of the railway station and the old bridge hill, leading to Geery's bridge on the left, the General entered a little road beyond the Lunatic Asylum, running to Tullyard, which he held, keeping by the river and to the west of Tullyard hill. The Royal troops now advanced through Lisdonwilly and Ballymackilmurry, in the parish of Grange, where Borlase, in his "History of the Irish Rebellion," p. 194, writes that in the year 1641, (43 years after the battle of the Yellow Ford), two hundred Protestants were drowned in a Lough hard by, *yelept*, Watt's bog, where human bones were dug up. This may, in some measure, account for the general tradition that the battle was fought at Cabragh.

From a hill, "which overlooks the Ford," the English soldiers now saw the "Irish Warriors and Champions" on the opposite side of the River Callan, awaiting their arrival.

At this point, close to a Mr. McCarragher's farm house, the old road abruptly stops, but within a very short distance, a few yards, remains the celebrated "Alistragh Pass," as recorded in the maps of the Escheated Counties in Ireland, published in 1609—the Ordnance Survey, and other historical documents.

Here is the remarkable spot indicated by O'Sullivan, where he says that the battle of the Yellow Ford was "fought on the River Callan, Aug. 10, 1589, (*recte* Aug. 14, 1598) about two miles North-East of Armagh."

On the West or O'Neill's side of the Ford, in a grazing field may still be traced the earthen remains of the trenches prepared for the Royal troops.

Having crossed the water or "Yellow Ford," (so called from the colour of the precipitous banks which overhang the stream,) the action commenced, and raged with doubtful success for four hours, between this place and Bagenall's bridge, in the townland of Drumcullen, about half-a-mile distant from the river.

The old road now turns a little southward, and passes Mr. Robert McKennel's premises, thence over what is called the "Hole Stone Hill," where may be viewed the "*lata planities*" or battle scene, stretching out before us in the townlands of Kellylin, Tyrgarve, and Drumcullen. As the fight really commenced at the Ford, it is presumed that the entire British army was engaged; so that the regular march terminated at this point. "The rear, no sooner recovered the hill beyond the Ford towards Blackwater, but the enemy charged us with horse and foot, to the number of 2,000 foot, and 400 horse."

The defeat of the English army was imputed to Bagenall's having divided his men into six companies or parties—marching carelessly in a woody country, at too great distances to help one another (each 700 paces asunder) so that some of them knew nothing of the action till it was all over; and to the accidental firing of two or three barrels of powder.

To commemorate this eventful battle, a bridge in the Townland of Drumcullen, retains the name of the English commander, who was slain in the action.

#### THE OLD ROAD OR "COMMON HIGHWAY" FROM ARMAGH TO BELLANABOY AND BLACKWATERTOWN.

Having already stated that Sir Henry Bagenall, for certain reasons best known to himself, marched to the Yellow Ford, "a mile on the right hand side of the 'common high-way,'" I shall now endeavour to point out the ordinary route to Blackwater and Charlemont.

As a good beginning, we shall start from the Protestant Hall, at the head of Dawson Street. This building, at the period of which I am writing, was the site of the principal Hotel in Armagh. Here very probably the great English general slept for the night. At subsequent times the unfortunate King James II. and Duke Schomberg occupied the same

quarters, enjoying alike the hospitality of "Mine Host of the Inn." Proceeding down Dawson Street, or, as it was originally called, "Abbey Lane," the road took a Westerly turn at the iron gate, stretching across a meadow in a straight line until it joined the Desert Lane where the Fever Hospital formerly stood. From this point we march over the Desert Hill—which by the way is paved with large slate stones, not now found in this neighbourhood, until we arrive at a ford near Mr. Cardwell's weir. Over this narrow, rugged, and hilly road the contending armies, as they journeyed from Armagh to the Blackwater in 1598 and to Charlemont in 1688, dragged their old-fashioned cannon and military *impedimenta*. Adopting a more Westward course, we cross Aughanore or the Golden Ford, where it is said a bar of gold was found by a ploughman some four-score years ago. The lucky finder, whose name *yclept* was Keltor, only discovered his good fortune when he brought it to a Blacksmith's forge for the purpose of mending his plough. The veteran smith, after heating the metal, found it unfit for the purpose intended, and threw it aside amongst the old iron, telling Keltor it was mere pot-metal. The latter, however, not willing to leave it behind, took it home, and after some time found that the bar, so indignantly rejected by the Blacksmith, was a solid bar of pure gold. This fortunate circumstance realized the poor man 60 guineas, which enabled him and his family to emigrate to America. This spot, hitherto unknown to fame and antiquarian research, possesses great claims to the consideration of the archæologist and historian.

In the Callan river, near this Ford, Mr. Cardwell found an iron battle-axe, which he still retains amongst other curiosities: and about fourteen years ago, when sinking a mill-race, at a depth of ten feet, the same gentleman discovered large oak beams, with stakes closely piled around them for the purpose (it is supposed) of constructing a pass or junction between Tullyelmer and Aughanore, to meet the Ford.

Having thus halted on our way to place on record a few anecdotes connected with this interesting spot, we will proceed on our march over Drumcairn, through Drumsill and Allistragh, taking the rear of Mr. Bond's house and front of Mr. Addy's premises, avoiding the present line of road. Moving onwards the traveller soon finds himself on the "Hole Stone Hill"—so called from a large stone with a hole in it. This memorial of the past seems to have been the object of much veneration by the people in the neighbourhood, as it is carefully preserved and paved around with small stones for several feet.

From this point we advance in a direct line to Bagenall's Bridge, where, as I have stated, Sir Henry Bagenall and the British army were completely subdued by the great O'Neill.

After leaving Bagenall's Bridge, where several bullets were found, the road runs on in a direct line to Blackwatertown by one branch, and by another now unused, to Benburb. If I am well informed—and the authority is authentic—there were about twenty years ago two canoes of large dimensions found in the bed of the river at Blackwater, where a ferry is supposed to have been constructed.

Although the battle of Benburb does not properly come under the designation of *local* topography, I may make it the subject of another paper, as it occurred soon after the terrible disaster which the English Government met at the Battle of Ballinaboy. The march of the Royal troops, as described above, admits of much historical speculation; and as the "Journey to the Blackwater" could be performed in *light marching order*, in a good part of a fine day, I again freely offer myself as a travelling companion to any antiquarian student who would wish to go over the ground and "fight the battle o'er again."



## THE FORTS ON THE BLACKWATER.

**M**ORYSON in his account of Hugh, Earl of Tyrone, first mentions the Blackwater as a reserve for the building of Forts in the year 1587. At this time Sir John Perrot, being the Lord Deputy, the O'Neill got the Queen's Letters Patent under the great seal of England for the Earldom of Tyrone. One of the condition of this favour was, that the bounds of Tyrone should be limited, and that one or two places—namely, that of Blackwater—should be reserved for the building of Forts, and keeping of garrisons thereon. This Fort must have been erected long previous, for Marshall Bagenall, in 1586, writes "Of buildings in the Countie of Ardemache—none save the Forte at Blackwater, most needful to be repaired, and better fortified."

We read, under 1590, that among certain articles signed by O'Neill, he bound himself "that in time of necessity he would sell victuals to the Fort of Blackwater." We also find that this Fort, originally built by the English, upon the passage to Dungannon, was taken by O'Neill, when he subsequently became a rebel. The Deputy, Lord Burgh, retook it in 1597, and placed English soldiers in it under Captain Thomas Williams, as Governor.

The indomitable courage and great valour with which Captain Williams held this Fort in 1598 may be imagined, after reading the following extract from the "State Papers of Queen Elizabeth:"

"Williams, though his small force was half famished, and sickness was amongst them, refused to surrender the Fort. The garrison had eaten their last horse, and were living upon grass that grew upon the bulwarks. O'Neill had surrounded the place on all sides, and swore by his barbarous hand, that as long as he could get a cow from the English Pale, to feed his companions, he would not leave it."

After the defeat of the English army at the Yellow Ford in the year 1598, the Fort was once more in the hands of the victorious Hugh O'Neill.

Cucogry O'Cleary, in his life of Hugh Roe O'Donnell, states, that the Fort Portmor was a strong earthen fort, having "fighting towers" with windows and loop holes to fire through, and that the English garrisoned it with 300 select warriors, to check the KINEL OWEN.

O'Sullivan, in writing of the "Fort of Blackwater," says "*Est in ultonia fluvius, qui dicitur Ibernus magnus, sed Anglis Aqua nigra—vel quod albus Ibernus fluvius lucidis et puris turbidior fluit, vel quod ipsi Angli nigro et adverso Marte ad illum signa sæpe contulerunt. Ad hoc flumen erat CASTELLUM, hujus belli casibus clarum, eodem nomine Anglis nuncupatum Aqua nigra, sed Ibernus PORTMOR; hoc est munimentum magnum, estque tribus millibus passuum ultra Ardmacham, Ecclesiastici Primatus Ibernus sedem et septem citra Dunganinam Tironi comitis municipium.*" Freely translated thus:—

There is in Ulster a river, which, by the Irish is called *Great*, but by the English *Blackwater*; either because it flows more turbid than other clear and pure rivers of Ireland, or because the English often engaged at it in black and adverse warfare. On this river there was a *fortress* made illustrious by the incidents of this war, designated by the same name—Blackwater, by the English, but Portmor by the Irish; this is a great Fort, and is three miles *beyond* Ardmach, the See of the Ecclesiastical Primate of Ireland, and seven from Dungannon, the Borough of the Earl of Tyrone.

In Marshall Bagenall's description of the state of Ulster in the year 1586, we have an account of *Cluann Dabhall*, i.e., meadow of Dabhall, or the Blackwater—afterwards softened to Glenaul, in the Parish of Eglisli.

"Glenawle is a pece of Country, which, of right apperteineth to the Archbishop of Ardemache and his Freeholders, and lieth betweene Ardmache and the Blackwater. There is



in it, nere the ryver, much under woods and bogges; but the rest being toward Ardemache, is champion and fertill. Upon the upper parte of this land is the Bridge and FORT of the Blackwater built. Turloghe Bresolache holedeth this portion of land from the Earl of Tyrone, to whom he paieth his Rentes and Services. The said Turlogh with his sonnes, now is able to make 30 horsemen and 80 footmen."

Anno 1595—Tyrone having heard that supplies of soldiers were coming for Ireland, drew his forces together at the first entrance of the year 1595 in open hostility, suddenly assaulted the Fort at Blackwater, built upon the passage into Tyrone, on the South side; and taking the same, razed it and broke down the bridge. Yet at this time Tyrone subtly made suit for pardon. Among the conditions of admitting him to the Queen's mercy, were—to cause the wearing of English apparel, and that none of his men wore glibbes (or long hair): that in time of necessity, he should sell victuals to the Fort of Blackwater.

Tyrone's repentance was not sincere, for after he captured the Fort, early in 1597, he wrote to Henry XII., Earl of Kildare, to induce him to renounce his allegiance to the Crown of England; but that nobleman peremptorily refused, and manfully accompanied the Lord Deputy on his mission.

About the beginning of June, 1595, the Lord Deputy and the Lord General drew their forces towards Armagh, and now Tyrone and other rebels had sent letters of submission to them both. The Commissioners judged some of their positions equal, others they referred to the Queen's pleasure. But when on the Queen's part, they propounded to the rebels, some articles to be performed by them, they were grown so insolent, as judging them unequal, the conference was broken off, with a few days truce granted on both sides, when the Queen, for sparing of blood, had resolved to give them any reasonable conditions.

This truce ended, the Lord Deputy and the Lord General, about the 18th of July, drew their forces to Armagh, with such terror to the rebels, as Tyrone left the Fort of Blackwater, fired the town of Dungannon, and pulled down his house there, burnt all villages and betook himself to the woods. They proclaimed Tyrone traitor in his own country, and leaving a guard to the church of Armagh, they, for want of victuals returned to Dublin, and by the way, placed a garrison in Monaghan.

In the following year Sir John Norreys, Lord General; Sir George Boucher, Master of the Ordnance, and Sir Geoffrey Fenton, Her Majesty's Secretary for Ireland, were commissioned to treat again with Tyrone, who had sought pardon, and acknowledged under his hand her Majesty's mercy therein extended to him, and confessed offences and breaches of the articles he had signed. The correspondence which ensued between the Commissioners and Tyrone, proved that the latter was only requiring time for the completion of some works which we had in hand. Upon the 10th of April, 1597, the Commissioners again pressed him by letters not to slack his own greatest good by delays.

Tyrone, on the 17th of April, sent his reasons for not meeting them, and justified himself for relapsing into disloyalty. At this time all the North of Ireland was in rebellion, except seven Castles, with their towns and villages, all but one lying towards the sea—namely, Newry, Kerrickfergus, Carlingford, Greencastle, Armagh, Dundrum, and Old Fleet.

In 1597 the Lord Deputy (Lord Bourgh), to give lustre and ominous presage to his Government, drew his forces towards Tyrone. The Irish, in a fastness near Armagh (so they call strait passages in woods, where, to the natural strength of the place, is added, the art of interlacing the low boughs and casting the bodies of the trees across the way), opposed the passage of the English, who made their way with their swords, and found that the Irish resolutely assaulted, would easily give ground. Then the Lord Deputy assaulted the Fort at Blackwater, whence the Earl at his first entering into rebellion, had by force expelled the English, as carefully as he would have driven poison from his heart. This Fort he soon took, and repairing the same, put a company of English soldiers into it to guard it. He then passed over the river on 20th July, in order to erect a Fort on the other

bank. But whilst the lord Deputy, with his whole army, were rendering thanks to God for this great success, the rebels showed themselves out of the thick woods near adjoining on the north side of the Fort, so as the prayers were interrupted by calling to arms. The English entered skirmish, and prevailed against them, driving them to fly into the thickest of their dens.

The Lord Deputy then left the new Fort, well guarded and provided with provisions to the charge of Captain Thomas Williams, and withdrew the forces towards the pale.

O'Neill and his people, who occupied the adjacent forest, rested neither night nor day but watched every opportunity of taking this Fort by stratagem or assault, by wreaking his vengeance on the garrison.

On a certain day he attacked our soldiers, but 30 of his men were slain, and he effected nothing against the Fort. When the Lord Justice received intelligence that his warders were harassed in this manner, and that they were in want of provisions, he mustered a numerous army to place provisions and all other necessaries in the Fort. Having arrived in Armagh with his army, he went, with the cavalry about him, along the public road, some distance before his foot-soldiers and companies, with the expectation of meeting some of O'Neill's people in an unprotected position. When he came near the Abbainn Mhor (Blackwater), he fell in with a troop of horse and a body of infantry of the O'Neill's people. A fierce conflict, and spiteful engagement ensued between them, and many men and horses were lost by the Lord Justice in that sharp battle. When the foot-soldiers had come up with the Lord Justice, he advanced to the fort, and some say that he was never well from that day forth.

On the next day they left provisions and warders in the fort, and then prepared to return back, but went no further than Armagh that night. O'Neill kept up a constant fire and attack upon the Lord Justice's camp during the night, by which the chief leader of the army and several others besides were slain. From thence they proceeded to Newry, and he died of the wounds which he had received between Armagh and the new fort.

The Earl of Kildare, on whom the command of the army devolved, drove back the assailants, but was also wounded, and twice thrown from his horse; and his two foster brothers—sons of O'Connor Faly, were slain, while assisting him to re-mount. He was so grieved by their death that he left the army broken spirited, and as he was on his journey home, he was obliged to rest at Drogheda, where he died from grief and fever, resulting from his wound, on 30th September, 1597.

The great defeat of Sir Henry Bagenall at the Yellow Ford, caused the Blackwater Fort to be given over to Tyrone. The appointment of Lord Mountjoy, however, to the office of Lord Deputy of Ireland, added much strength to the English arms, so much so, that O'Neill with his troops was obliged to return from Lough Foyle, hasten to Dungannon, and marching on with the hope of arresting Mountjoy's progress, he razed the old Fort of the Blackwater, burned Armagh, and distributed his men in the fastness of Lough Lurkin, i.e., Lurgan, near Silver Bridge, parish of Creggan, where, with great industry, he threw up entrenchments, and constructed rude fortifications along a line of three miles in extent. On 4th June, in the following year, the Lord Deputy preceded towards Tyrone, and after having rebuilt and garrisoned the Fort of Blackwater, he drew off his army, and returned to Armagh, where he received despatches from the Court of England.

Lord Mountjoy embarked 23rd February, 1599, and landed the next day in Ireland, where he shewed himself the best soldier that Kingdom had seen for many years, because he found out the true way of making war with the Irish; for, being well supplied with necessaries from England, he plainly saw that if he could attack them at a time when they wanted all conveniences to keep the field, he should meet with very little or no resistance, and therefore he supplied his frontier garrisons with men and provisions; and they, by their frequent excursions, did such execution on the persons and estates of the Irish, that by one Winter's war he reduced them to the necessity of eating one another.—(Cox, Ireland).



## THE NEW FORT.



ON 12th July, 1601, the army marched in the morning to Armagh, and there resting some hours, marched again after dinner a mile and a half beyond Armagh, and there upon an hill encamped.

The following day, the Lord Deputy with the army, rose from the former camp, and marched one mile and a half down hill on this side (namely the south side) of Blackwater, where he made a stand, Tyrone, and his horse and foot, shewing themselves out of a wood, beyond a meadow, on the other side of the river, and that with trumpets, and divers colours (some won at the old defeat of the English in those parts), and with some drums, rather for a bragging ostentation than otherwise, since they, fighting like thieves upon dangerous passages, used not to appear in such warlike manner. All the night the rebels out of the trenches shot at our men, while they were busy in working. On the 14th day, very early in the morning, upon our discharging our great pieces, the rebels quitted their trenches, basely running into the woods, and our 300 men passing the river, under Capt'n. Thomas Williams, possessed the trenches and the old ruined fort, with the plain in which it lay, the wood being almost musket shot distance, whither the rebels had fled.

Presently the Lord Deputy sent one regiment to lie beyond the Blackwater, upon a *hill*, where his lordship had made choice to build a NEW FORT.

The 15th day his lordship, with a troop of horse, and 400 foot, drew towards Tyrone's wood, and viewed the places in the sight of the rebels who ran away with their cows. On the 16th, the Lord Deputy drew out a regiment of Irish, commanded by Sir Christo St. Lawrence, and passing the Blackwater, marched to Benburb, the old house of Shane O'Neill lying on the left hand of our camp, at the entrance of great woods.

These two last days, continues Moryson, our pioneers had been busied in fortifying and building a NEW FORT at Blackwater, not far distant from the old Fort, demolished by the rebels, and for some days following, his lordship specially intended the furtherance and finishing of this work, so as many soldiers were extraordinarily hired to work therein as pioneers.

The remainder of the year was occupied chiefly in providing the Fort with provisions; at the same time, Thomas Williams was appointed the Governor.

On 20th August, the Lord Deputy took the field, and encamped in the middle way between the Newry and Armagh, and thence his lordship resolved to spoil all the country of Tyrone, and to banish all the inhabitants from thence, enjoying such of them as would become subjects, to live on the south side of Blackwater, so that if Tyrone returned, he should find nothing in it but the Queen's garrisons.

9th September his lordship marched back with his army, divided all the waste land (on the south side of Blackwater), towards the Newry, and came to the Newry, 11th September, bringing with him into the Pale, fourteen companies of Foot, and one hundred Horse.

The letter, which the Lord Deputy at this critical period, forwarded to the Lords in England, clearly proves that the O'Neill was worsted. "We have spoiled, and mean to spoil their corn, and in respect of the garrisons, and of the Blackwater, their creaghts can hardly return, but they will be still at our command. If they should prove false, we have good bridles upon them, and at any time their followers, upon leave to dwell in Tyrone, will easily forsake them. These followers seem to desire nothing more than to hold their land off the Queen, without any dependancy upon the O'Neill's."

Tyrone was also well aware of his position, and that he was in the hands of his enemy. In his letter of submission, dated 12th November, 1602, he says:—"Yet I am weary of the course I hold, and do much repent me of the same, most humbly, and with penitent heart,



desiring, and wishing to be reconciled to my Prince, and to be received to her Majesty's mercy, whom, I am right sorry I have so much offended and provoked, and yet I know that her Majesty's mercy is greater than mine offences. \* \* \* I will, from henceforth, both renounce all other Princes for her, and serve her Highness the residue of my life, humbly requesting, even of your honour, now that you have brought me so low, to remember I am a Nobleman, and to take compassion on me." \* \* \*

12th November, 1602.

Subscribed—HUGH TYRONE.

The submission of Tyrone, together with the erections of the Forts of Charlemont and Mountjoy, at this time rendered the further maintenance of the Forts of Blackwater unnecessary. Of these strongholds, at Blackwater, very little or nothing remain at the present day, and few, indeed, even of those who have spent long lives in the immediate neighbourhood, know anything either of these old buildings or their history.

Opposite to the town of Blackwater, about 150 yards down the banks on the Tyrone side, leading to Moy and Charlemont are some vestiges of a Fort, on the site of which Felix Daly now resides.

At the time of the erection of this Fort the forces in garrison were—

	<i>Foot.</i>	<i>Horse.</i>	
Carriekfergus, ... ..	850.	115.	Sir A. Chichester.
Lecale, ... ..	300.		Sir R. Morrison.
Newry, ... ..	450.	50.	Sir F. Stafford.
Mountnorris, ... ..	600.	50.	Sir S. Bagenall.
Armagh, ... ..	800.	125.	Sir H. Danvers.
Blackwater, ... ..	350.		Captain Williams.

## CHARLEMONT FORT ON THE BLACKWATER.

THE Fort of Charlemont, which was built in the month of June, 1602, was situated on the north bank of the Blackwater, about five miles eastward of Blackwater town.

When the structure was completed, Lord Mountjoy (Charles Blount) named it CHARLEMONT from his own Christian name, and placed in it a garrison of 150 men, under the command of Captain Toby Caulfield, whose descendants, the Earls of Charlemont, adopted the name of this place as their title. The Earl of Mountalexander was appointed Governor of Charlemont, by Patent, dated 8th October, on the decease of Earl Conway, who had previously held this position. This Fort was a very strong and important place in those days when the country was full of woods and passages that were difficult, because it commanded a pass over the Blackwater in the great northern road.

In the year 1603, after the reduction of Ireland, there was left at Charlemont Fort, Sir Toby Caulfield with 150 foot.

In the Irish rebellion of 1641, Sir Phelim O'Neill, eager to distinguish himself as the leader of the Roman Catholic league in the North, commenced his wicked and barbarous career by a base and treacherous breach of hospitality.

Lord Caulfield, a brave and hospitable nobleman, resided in the castle of Charlemont as Governor of that Fort, and lived in the most unsuspecting confidence with his Irish neighbours. On the 22nd day of October, the eve of the day fixed for the General Insurrection, the Ulster Chieftain invited himself to sup with Lord Caulfield and was received with every mark of friendship. Under different pretensions, a considerable number of the O'Neill's followers had accompanied him to Charlemont, and in the middle of their hospitable entertainment, at a preconcerted signal from the chief, they seized and bound Lord Caulfield, whom they afterwards brutally murdered at Kinnaird (Caledon), with his family, made the garrison prisoners, and plundered the Castle.

That wicked chieftain, subsequently retiring before the English forces, made Charlemont Castle his head-quarters for a short time. Owen O'Niall, expecting to be besieged here, strengthened the defences; and when the Scottish General, Monroe, attempted to surprise it he was repulsed with loss, but the Castle was at length captured by Sir Charles Coote. In 1665, it was sold to Charles II. for £3,500, since which time it has been vested in the Crown.

Charlemont was the Ordnance depot for the North of Ireland, and the head-quarters of the Royal Artillery for the district of Ulster. Formerly it had a military Governor, but on the death of General Sir John Doyle, Bart., in 1835, the office was abolished as being a sinecure. The barracks, which were occupied by two companies of the Royal Artillery, accommodated 5 officers, 151 non-commissioned officers and privates, and 79 horses, with an hospital attached for 22 patients.

Cox, the historian, in giving a description of a naval battle which occurred in 1642 on Lough Neagh, mentions this Fort—"Sir John Clotworthy's regiment built a Fort at Toome, and thereby got a convenience to pass the river Bann at pleasure, and to make incursions as often as he pleased into the County of Londonderry.

To revenge this, the Irish garrison at Charlemont built some boats, with which they sailed down the Blackwater into Lough Neagh and preyed and plundered all the borders thereof."

Harris's account of the Fort of Charlemont is very interesting. On page 263, Anno 1690, we read—

"It was a strong Castle, erected in the year 1602, by Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy, Deputy of Ireland, as a curb on the Earl of Tyrone, whose chief mansion house, with a strong Fort, was at Dungannon. It stands on a narrow angle of ground, formed by the confluence of the river Callan, with the Blackwater on the East side, in the County of Ardmagh. Under the shelter of this Fort there grew up a town, which is now a Corporation. The place was strong by nature, being bounded on the East and South by huge impassable bogs; and on the North and West by the river Blackwater, which is here 36 feet broad, and 16 feet deep, the banks whereof were, for the most part, secured by quaggy meadows and marshes; insomuch that it was accessible only by two ways, one to the North, where the ground is firm, and the other to the West, where it may be approached, though not without difficulty, the Irish having taken pains to make those two passes defensible by a small number. The fortifications about it were palisadoed; a dry ditch and counter-scarp within which was a double rampart, and still more inward a thick stone wall, and regular flankers and bastions, a drawbridge well fortified, and within all, the magazines, a guard-house, and a large square tower. It was defended by a strong garrison, under the command of Teigh O'Regan, an able old soldier, whom King James II. soon after Knighted for his defence of the place. Harris and Leland informs us that on being summoned to surrender, the wily General replied, that "the old knave, Schomberg, shall not have this castle." In a foot note, Harris states that Tindal, in his continuation of "Rapin's History of England," deceived by other writers, places this Fort in a wrong situation, namely, on a piece of ground in the middle of the Bay of Carrickfergus, which a small attention to the Map of Ireland would have enabled him to rectify.

Story, in writing of the "Relief put into Charlemont," dated 2nd May, 1690, says:—"Lieutenant-Colonel Mackmehon, with about 400 men, ammunition, and some small quantities of provisions, got into Charlemont in the night, but our French and other regiments posted thereabouts, watched him so narrowly, that though he made two or three attempts, yet he could not get out again. And the second week in May, several English, a Brandenburg, and three Dutch Regiments landed. By which time also, all our recruits were completed and the Regiment clothed; so that we had now an excellent army—all overjoyed with the assurance that his Majesty, William III., in person designed to make

the campaign in Ireland. A part of our army also, began to take the field, and encamp round Charlemont: cannon and mortars were sent up that way too (on Legar Hill); in order to force old Teague O'Regan, the Governor, from his nest, if he would not quit it otherways; but their provisions being spent, and no hopes of relief appearing, on the 12th May, the Governor (Teague), desired a parley, and after some time it was agreed, that his Garrison should march out with their arms and baggage, which they did, on the 14th, being about 800, (besides 200 women and children). Duke Schomberg, when he saw so many females, said, that—"Love rather than policy prevailed in Irish garrisons." The famished soldiers as they moved along, were seen, according to Harris, devouring pieces of dried hides, with the hair on; but Schomberg ordered a loaf to each of them from the stores at Armagh, and entertained the officers with hospitable attention. Four companies of Colonel Babington's Regiment took possession of the place. We found 17 pieces of cannon, one large mortar, 83 barrels of powder, with some fire-arms, and other useful materials in the fortress.

Charlemont and Moy may be said now to form one town, being merely separated by the Blackwater—the former being on the Armagh, and the latter on the Tyrone side of the river.

In the year 1859 Lord Charlemont purchased the Castle and its appurtenances from the Crown. The latter was levelled to the ground and the materials sold by public auction. The Castle, however, remains to mark the site where this important fortress stood.

Near Charlemont may be found some traces of a fortification, at "Legar Hill," (from which Duke Schomberg bombarded the town,) and a Danish Rath.

The silver signet ring, with the impress of the bloody hand, and initials T. O., (Turlough Lynoch O'Neill) was found, many years ago near Charlemont.

The characteristic fame of "Charlemont Garrison" and the "Royal Artillery" is humorously celebrated in rustic verse, by the Author of the "Colleen Bawn." It is not strictly *hexameter*.

### THE ROYAL ARTILLEREE.

"Charlemont's a purty place, the month before July,  
A bridge across the Blackwater connects it with the Moy;  
The ships advancin in full sail, 'tis beautiful to see,  
But what linds most charms unto this place, is the R'YAL ARTILLEREE.

On the first Friday of the month, as they go to the fair,  
To see the purty girls that always do stand there;  
They bring them in and treat them and use them tenderlee,  
For they're the boys that fears no noise, the R'YAL ARTILLEREE.

Now to finish, to conclude, and for to make an end,  
Heres a health unto the officers, likewise unto the men,  
And should it ever happen, they go to face the enemy,  
Och! they're the boys that fears no noise the R'YAL ARTILLEREE."



## MOUNTJOY FORT ON LOUGH SIDNEY.

ANNO DOMINO: 1602.

**I**N the townland of Magheralamfield—Barony of Dungannon middle—near Belleville, not far from Stewartstown, County Tyrone, stands the romantic and imposing ruins of **MOUNTJOY CASTLE**. It is situate on the S. West side of “Lough Sidney,—about two miles and a half on the Tyrone side. **SIDNEY** was a name given to Loch N-Eathac, or Lough Neagh, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, from Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy of Ireland. The erection of this old stronghold was cotemporary with the building of Charlemont Fort, and its history is illustrated but scantily and almost ignored by the annalists of that busy period.

Moryson’s “Itinerary” supplies the most important information, from which we learn that, the Lord Deputy, Mountjoy, so oftener mentioned, as the Modern Castellator of Ireland in the English interest, sent Sir Richard Moryson from Dungannon with five hundred foot to meet Sir Arthur Chichester, who came with his forces from Carrickfergus and was to pass Lough Sidney, and land within a few miles of Dungannon, where they being met, did according to the Lord Deputies direction, begin to raise a Fort. In the meantime the Lord Deputy having utterly banished all Tirone’s partakers out of those parts, marched five miles from Dungannon to Lough Sidney, where Sir Arthur Chichester lay with his forces, and his Lordship encamped there, till he made the fort defensible to contain above 1000 foot, and 100 horse, which were to be victualled from Carrickfergus, by the way of the said Lough. The Fort of his Lordship’s Barony, he called **MOUNTJOY**, and made Sir Benjamin Berry, Governor of the same for the present service, which being done, the command of the Fort was left to Captain Francis Roe. Likewise for the present service Sir Arthur Chichester commanded in chief the forces to be left there, which he might draw out upon all occasions of service as out of all other garrisons in those parts towards Carrickfergus. After the building of Mountjoy Fort, the Lord Deputy proposed to follow Tyrone through his greatest fastness till he should utterly ruin him or drive him that way to the sea. (Moryson part ii. Lib. 3, pp. 218—223.)

After Hugh O’Neill had submitted and received pardon from Queen Elizabeth, we find that certain lands were excepted and reserved out of O’Neill’s property for the Forts Mountjoy and Charlemont: “and likewise excepting and reserving 300 acres of land to be laid to the Forte of Mountjoy, and 300 more to the Forte of Charlemont during her Majesty’s pleasure, to hold any garrisons in the said Forts.”

To the reservation of these lands, O’Neill gave his full consent. (p. 280.)

On 20th August, 1602, the Lord Deputy took the field, and encamped between Newry and Armagh, and understanding that Tyrone was in Fermanagh, he marched over the bridge near Fort-Mountjoy, and staid five days near Tullahogue, and broke the chair of stone whereon the O’Neills used to be inaugurated, and destroyed the country.

8th September, 1602, Lord Mountjoy directed Sir Arthur Chichester to lie at Mountjoy garrison, clearing the County of Tyrone of all inhabitants, and to spoil all the corn which he could not preserve for the garrison, and to deface all the Islands formerly taken.

In “Sir Henry Docwray’s narration,” edited by Dr. O’Donovan, we find mention made of this Fort. “The next day Sir Arthur Chichester came over at Lough Sidney, and landed 1,000 men at that place, where he presentlie erected a Forte, which had afterwards the name given it of Mountjoy, and my lord having gained his passage before and erected another at

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Lord Caulfield lay with his foot company, the Forts of Dungannon and MOUNTJOY, as that in his letter written to Father Patrick O'Donnell, his confessor, bearing date from MOUNTJOY, 30th October, he was able to brag of a great many victories.

Dr. Robert Maxwell, in his account of the Rebellion of 1641, writes—"That the fewest which can be supposed to have perished at Portadown bridge must needs be about one thousand, besides as many more drowned betwixt that bridge and the great lough of Mountjoy."

## SIDNEY CASTLE ON DERRYWARRAGH ISLAND.

PROBABLY BUILT BY MOUNTJOY.

On the extreme south of Lough Neagh there may be seen the wreck of an old CASTLE adjoining "Derrywarragh," of which there appears no record in history. Referring, however, to the maps of the escheated estates, published Anno. 1809—Speed, 1676, Morden—Gerard Mercator, 1636—and Bleau, 1640, the site or ground on which this ruin appears, is surrounded with water, and described as "Sidney Island," but by the Ordnance Survey maps as "Derrywarragh Island!" We may then safely call the castle after the name of the island on which it stood—ignoring the modern appellation.

At the present time, the space between Maghera Chapel-yard or the mainland and the island is filled up with sand or soil, consequent on drainage and the lowering of the Bann river at or near Coleraine. This improvement has had the beneficial effect of reducing the depth of the water in Lough Neagh above 10 feet.

Some years ago there was made, what is called, a new cut or river, which flows between the "island" and the mainland, for the convenience of small vessels entering the Black-water from the Lough.

Lough Sydney was a name given to Loch NeEathac or Lough Neagh in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, from Sir Henry Sydney, Lord Deputy of Ireland.



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On 20th August, 1602, the Lord Deputy took the field, asking John to pieces, to level and Armagh, and understanding that Tyrone was in Fermanagh, he was immediately near Fort-Mountjoy, and staid five days near Tullaghan, renouncing all foreign jurisdiction. whereon the O'Neills used to be inaugurated, and destroyed.

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